

**Fr. General Arturo Sosa, S.J.**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Homily**  
**Jor Bagh (India)**  
**February 19, 2017**

Real conversion happens when we act according to the Spirit and go beyond the law.

The law is “what we have heard”. Jesus invites his disciples to go beyond what was the normal way of acting: *you have heard that it was said.*

It is an invitation to a profound conversion that invites each of us to turn the other cheek to, give one’s cloak to or walk for two miles with those who are evil.

*But I say you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.* Is such a way of proceeding possible? Is it possible to change our “normal” way of relating to each other? Is such a profound conversion of heart possible?

We are able to conduct ourselves in this manner only when we experience God’s holiness, that is, God’s goodness and when we experience God as a *Father, who makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.* It is this kind of experience of God that moves us to be as good as He is, to act as mercifully as he does. This is what it is to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect.

We know that religious life was described as a *life of perfection.* In the light of today’s Gospel, it means a life that witnesses to God’s goodness – a life that is entirely dedicated to the promotion of justice, to the ministry of reconciliation among human beings and to the struggle to change social structures that include a right relationship with creation.

In today’s reading from the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses a beautiful image: a human being is a temple of God and a temple of God is holy. Hence every human being is holy and deserves respect, the respect that comes from love.

We pray in this Eucharist that we may become children of our heavenly Father so that we may be able to see in every human being a temple of God. We pray that we may experience God’s love in way that moves and motivates us to work hard for a human and dignified life for all.