

**“To him who strikes
you on the one cheek,
offer the other also.
And from him who
takes away your
cloak, do not
withhold your tunic
either.” – Luke 6:29**



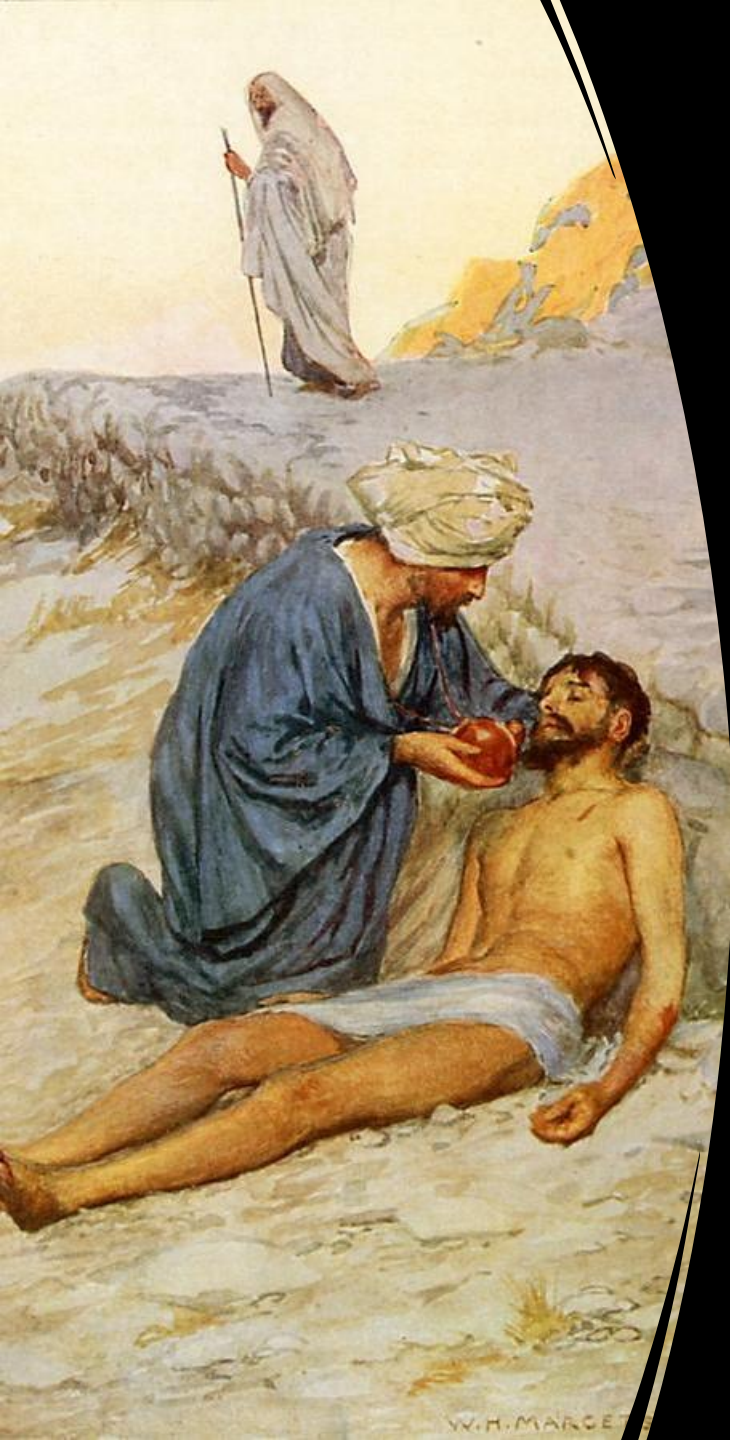
Jesus before the High Priest by Alessandro Mantovani

Walking by the Spirit in an Unjust and Unfair World

4th Sunday of Paona

Sundays of Paona

- **Theme: The Holy Spirit**
- **Filled with the Holy Spirit**
 - “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Lk. 11:13)
- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**
 - “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Pet. 4:10)
 - “Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matt. 7:22)



Sundays of Paona

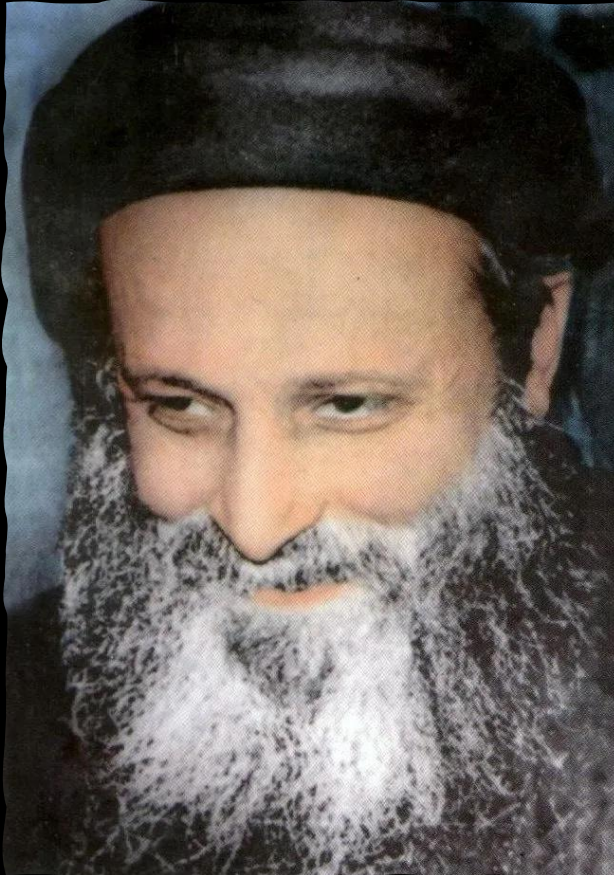
- **Sins against the Holy Spirit**
- **Fruit of the Holy Spirit**
 - "God is love." (1 Jn. 4:16)
 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (Jn. 3:16)
 - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Lk. 23:34)
- Love is a decision
- EX: The Good Samaritan

Unfair Treatment

- "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. (Lk. 6:27-29)

Accepting Injustice and Inequity

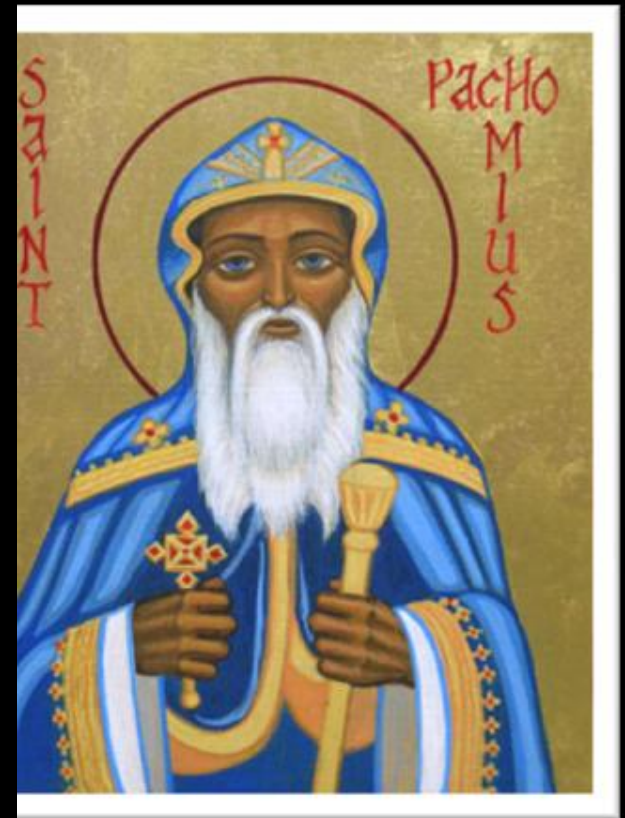
Love and forgiveness



- “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:35-36)
- Why are we commanded to do the same?
 1. To imitate the perfect God, who loved the just and the unjust alike.
 2. To break the cycle of revenge and transform hearts
 - EX: Fr. Bishoy Kamel
 3. To witness the love of God

Peace and Unity

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also ... And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ... Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you.” (Matthew 5:38–44)
- We are called to initiate and infuse good
- EX: St. Paul
 - “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15)
 - “I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls.” (2 Corinthians 12:15)
- EX: St. Pachomius



For the Gospel's sake



- EX: Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned at Philippi (Acts 16)
- **“And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison...”** (Acts 16:23)

Conclusion

- Christ's command to love our enemies is seemingly impossible for us – but with God all things are possible.
- We are taught to endure injustice and inequity for at least 3 reasons:
 1. Love and Forgiveness
 2. Peace and Unity
 3. For the Gospel's sake
- **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)**