

## Fr. Simon Sez

This week we begin Catholic Family Sharing Appeal 2022. Your gift to Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA) helps provide the necessary funding for many of the ministries within our Diocese such as training our future priests, giving a voice to the unborn through the Respect Life programs, faith formation for youth and adults, support of Newman Ministries on university campuses and telehealth counseling using home computers on a sliding scale fee structure. Most of these have or will, directly or indirectly, touch the lives of everyone in our parish. These are ongoing ministries and Bishop DeGrood needs our help to serve the many needs of our brothers and sisters in East River South Dakota.

CFSA funds the “corporate offices” types of services to our parish offices. They include training and support for administrative services, financial accounting, human resources, Information Technology (IT) (computer hardware and software technical support) which includes making available good, used computers, copiers, and printers for free or at cost of upgrades. Our parishes are benefiting greatly by utilizing the Discipleship & Evangelization office. We are receiving Youth Faith Formation parish mission support such as the Wednesday evening retreats for YFF disciples and parents we will be offering this Lent.

This week you will receive a letter from Bishop DeGrood asking for your support to this year’s Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year’s appeal, fill out your pledge card and bring it to church next weekend. If you do not receive a letter, let the parish office know.

### A Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, Giver of life and all good gifts, you anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit who inspired him to give everything he had for our sake. Move us by the same spirit of stewardship to share first to the Lord, for the benefit of all.

By your grace, help us to follow in your footsteps and become more focused on loving and caring for our families, our neighbors and our communities.

Lead us to the awareness that everything we are and everything we have is your gift.

Grant us the spirit of sacrifice to always seek your will and to share our gifts with our brothers and sisters.

May we be good stewards of all we have received and cooperate with you in building your kingdom of love and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Dauids and Sauls: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time



1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9,  
12–13, 22–23  
Psalm 103:1–13  
1 Corinthians 15:45–49  
Luke 6:27–38

The story of David and Saul in today’s First Reading functions almost like a parable. Showing mercy to his deadly foe, David gives a concrete example of what Jesus expects to become a way

of life for His disciples.

The new law Jesus gives in today’s Gospel would have us all become “Dauids”—loving our enemies, doing good to those who would harm us, extending a line of credit to those who won’t ever repay us.

The Old Law required only that the Israelites love their fellow countrymen (see Leviticus 19:18). The new law Jesus brings makes us kin to every man and woman (see also Luke 10:29–36). His kingdom isn’t one of tribe or nationality. It’s a family. As followers of Jesus, we’re to live as He lived among us—as “children of the Most High” (see Luke 6:35; 1:35).

As sons and daughters, we want to walk in the ways of our heavenly Father, to “be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Grateful for His mercy, we’re called to forgive others their trespasses because God has forgiven ours.

In the context of today’s liturgy, we’re all “Sauls”—by our sinfulness and pride we make ourselves enemies of God. But we’ve been spared a death we surely deserved to die because God has loved and shown mercy to His enemies, “the ungrateful and the wicked,” as Jesus says.

Jesus showed us this love in His Passion, forgiving His enemies as they stripped Him of cloak and tunic, cursed Him and struck Him on the cheek, condemned Him to death on a cross (see Luke 22:63–65; 23:34). “He redeems your life from destruction,” David reminds us in today’s Psalm.

That’s the promise, too, of today’s Epistle: that we who believe in the “last Adam,” Jesus, will rise from the dead in His image, as today we bear the image of the “first Adam,” who by his sin made God an enemy and brought death into the world (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–22).

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