

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B
(Sept. 6, 2009)**

As I read the readings for today I couldn't help but think they have a special meaning for what we are trying to do in our nation right now. I was even tempted to call this homily God's Social Justice Plan. The first reading from Isaiah as well as the Gospel have clear applications to the effort at health care reform, which the majority of people in the country seem to feel is badly needed. If Jesus were here right now I think he would have some pretty pointed things to say about what is going on and what would be a better way to proceed. Indeed I think he would be pretty appalled at the utter lack of civility that has characterized so much of the debate

Do you remember how a few years ago many people were throwing around the question, "What would Jesus do?" The first thing he would do, of course, is act with compassion and understanding and love as he always did. He would think of the good of the people and not financial or political advantages. He would urge people on both sides of the issue to be open and to listen carefully to one another and then to talk civilly and with respect about what might be done to improve the situation.

On this Labor Day weekend when we all might have a little extra time to think about what would Jesus do, let's all take a few moments to pray about how we might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation that Jesus came to accomplish but which, as is all too painfully evident, has not yet entirely been accomplished. Remember how he prayed, "That they all may be one, that they may be one as you Father, are in me and I am in them. That they all may be one in us."