

Today our 1<sup>st</sup> reading and Gospel speak to us about connection.

Ezekiel reflects how God seeks us out....we who are scattered or in darkness; we who are lost, who have strayed, are injured or are weak. God seeks us out because we have come from God. We are connected.

Sometimes we may lose sense of that connection. Yet, we remain linked. God seeks us out to reassure and comfort us..... to strengthen us and give us hope.

In the Gospel Jesus reminds us how we are one with each other. No matter what our circumstances, we are responsible for persons who are hungry, thirsty and a stranger. We are responsible for people who are homeless, poor, sick and imprisoned. Why? Because we are our sisters and brothers in Christ. All people are related and connected to us as we are related and connected to God.

Our monthly food collections as well as our yearly collections for the Missions and The Campaign for Human Development are ways we, as a parish community, respond to our needy sisters and brothers.

When we lose sight of our relationship with one another, we may want to ignore, shun, close our eyes, hearts and pocketbooks to our needy sisters and brothers. We may want to view these daughters and sons of God as "THEY". We may want to keep THEM OUT THERE....a safe distance from our selves. It's a lifelong struggle to keep our focus clear: we are children of God and brothers and sisters to one another in Christ.

This week keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open for anyone seeking connection. Someone may need our time, our presence, a smile. Someone may need a hug, some prayers or a word of encouragement.

My sisters and brothers: Whatever needs we discern, remember always and everywhere: We are connected: to God and to one another.