

Last Sunday afternoon Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver paid a visit to St. Regis. Our scout Sunday celebration concluded with the traditional Blue & Gold Banquet, and troop 98 invited the mayor. In our own family room the Rev. Cleaver read the official proclamation establishing last week as scout week in Kansas City. He also acknowledged that the media tend to cover the bad things kids do, whereas we should recognize the positive contributions of kids like these in our community. How blessed we are to have boys and girls, parents and grandparents, youth and elderly in our parish who promote the values of faith and love, industry and friendship, personal growth and community enrichment.

Our mayor is right. Too often we permit other values to govern our attention. We succumb to the temptation that wealth brings happiness, that fame brings honor, that power brings satisfaction. Such values promote selfishness and the willingness to use people and waste things. Violence flourishes where love is lost.

In speaking the beatitudes, Jesus addresses an audience whose values were like those of our society. He had to remind the poor, the hungry, and the victims of abuse that they are blessed--not because people step on them, but because they are human beings deserving dignity. Blessedness comes not from wealth, not from fame, not from power--but from life in Christ.

My brothers and sisters, our whole community needs this witness. It needs to know that happiness comes from real values, and that violence resolves nothing. In our faith, in our homes, in all our relationships, let us recognize the blessedness of every person, and treat one another as children of God.