

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Just before we take up the collection you'll hear Sr. Andrea's appeal for the mission of her congregation, the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Eucharist. Sister comes from Independence, Missouri, yet she is helping people in Brazil.

Her community illustrates today's second reading, where Paul declares, "In Christ Jesus, you who were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity.... He came to preach peace to you who were far off and peace to those who are near."

Paul was speaking about the unexpected unity between Jew and Gentile in Christ, but his words pertain even today to the seemingly impossible unity between members of diverse political parties, competitors in the Olympics, or countries at war. All human beings have a foundational unity: Christ. He is our peace. Through him we all have access in one Spirit to the Father. No matter who it is from whom we feel far away, Christ makes us one.