

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we spot hypocrisy in others, we may feel superior to them and even taunt them. We do not always spot hypocrisy within ourselves. Sometimes a family member, close friend, or an enemy uncovers the disconnection between what we say and what we do.

A biting passage from the Letter of St. James takes up this theme today. James is like a close friend who will say things you don't want to hear, but things you need to hear.

Some early Christians were guilty of hypocrisy. James asks them, "What good is it... if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" He cites an example that is still relevant: If you see someone with insufficient clothing or food, and you say, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but don't give them anything, James asks, "what good is it?" When we see someone in need, out on a street corner downtown, many of us don't even talk to them politely. We may ignore their request, form a harsh opinion, or even taunt them.

At this cathedral, through Morning Glory Ministries, we offer food, clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags, and other assistance to those in need. We also help people get an ID. Many of our breakfast guests don't have their birth certificate, but we help them track it down. The greatest number of checks the cathedral writes each month are for \$18 to the Missouri Department of Revenue, requesting the record of someone's ID. Without one, they cannot get a job, own a place to live, or vote.

I encourage people who see beggars on the street to say hello or at least give a friendly wave. Then, to avoid the hypocrisy that St. James condemns, give treasure or time to Morning Glory Ministries or another reputable agency that will provide suitable help.

St. James offers a taunt of his own: "Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works." How does your faith match your works? If we said no words, and people just saw what we did, would they know we had faith from our works?

### *Introduction to Bishop Johnston's video on Amendment 3:*

You may be aware that the issue of abortion access in Missouri will be on the November ballot this year. Bishop Johnston has asked us to share an important message from him regarding Amendment 3, a proposed constitutional amendment that, if passed, would eliminate legal protections that currently safeguard our community from the harm of abortion. After Mass today, you may visit [lifeandjusticekcsj.org](http://lifeandjusticekcsj.org) for more details and ways to get involved.

Here's Bishop Johnston's message:

Since the first century the Catholic Church has been very clear about the great tragedy that is abortion and the sanctity of all human life. And yet, here in the United States it's thought that nearly one in four women have had an abortion.

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**You know, we as Catholics believe that God is the author of all human life, that it's a gift, and that we have a duty to safeguard not only the gift of life from the first moment of conception, but to uphold the dignity of every human person.**

**But in November there will be an amendment proposed for our state constitution that will permit babies to be aborted up through the third trimester of pregnancy.**

**This ballot measure is harmful in so many ways. It not only puts babies at risk, it also puts their moms at risk by removing existing standards of care. It also allows for minors to procure an abortion without the consent or notification of their parents.**

**Lastly, in addition to doing everything we can to protect human life and to protect women, we can also redouble our efforts to help to heal those who have been harmed and wounded emotionally, spiritually, and even physically because of abortion. We can also assist women and families who are facing difficult situations that lead them to consider an abortion.**

**There's so many people, ministries, and resources available locally that help people in difficult circumstances and you can be a part of that, and so I ask you to please look at [lifeandjusticekcsj.org](http://lifeandjusticekcsj.org) to learn more about those opportunities to help others. I also ask you to lend your voice and your vote this November to defend human life from the moment of conception and to protect women in our State. Thank you for being a part of this effort.**

**Let's pray: Lord, you give us the gift of life from the first moment of conception. Help us to be ever grateful for that gift and to uphold the dignity of every human person. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is the Lord of life. Amen.**