

Presentation at all the Masses – St Teresa's, SI, NY

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Can it be said that the people we hate the most are ones that occupy our minds the most?

Dante referred to hell as being cold, dark and icy. Making matters worse, the devil seats sworn enemies next to each other.

I learned something very profound a few years back. Those of whom you forgive you let go of them and they of you. Most of the people I forgive I don't want anything to do with ever again. But they don't occupy my mind like they once did either.

Isn't God amazing? The readings today were written more than two thousand years ago and then selected and scheduled by Catholic hierarchy several decades ago.

Then why did these selected readings fall on evil's tenth anniversary? God decided a very long time ago we needed them today. He is so much smarter than you and I.

When was the last time we stopped to reflect on the phrase in the Lord's Prayer that reads: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Cardinal Theodore McCarrick once said that as children we were taught to memorize, not understand. How many of us pray it rote?

Today's first reading from Sirach says, "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." By the way, a neighbor just doesn't live next door to you – rather, it is me and you, you and they, and they and us.

Peter, who probably out of all God's chosen ones is so much like us (His cell phone would have rung in the garden), is told by Jesus to forgive seventy-seven times.

This Wednesday evening, September 14th, "A State of Grace" begins. All are welcome. It is here where we can come and forgive and be forgiven, celebrate, communicate, and understand. Every other week, for an hour (from 7:30 to 8:45 in the evening), there will be reflection, discussion and fellowship. It will be held in the Convent Chapel on Windsor Road.

Those who wish to live in the "State of Grace" can begin to receive the "new heart and spirit" God promises us in Psalm 51 and Ezekiel 18.

We promise no obligation. "Come and see."