

FROM FR. DEO

September 6, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good, all the time...All the time, God is good!

One of the biblical passages that has shaped my understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation is Genesis 4:9. When God asks Cain about his brother Abel, he responds, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Sometimes, our attitudes echo the same message: "It's not my business," or "I don't want to get involved." We often avoid correcting others because difficult conversations are uncomfortable. Yet the readings of this 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that Christian discipleship calls us to

care for one another, speak the truth with love, and never be indifferent to our brothers and sisters.

In the first reading, God tells Ezekiel: "I have appointed you watchman for the house of Israel." A watchman does not create the danger; he warns others when danger is coming. Yet how do we correct someone without becoming judgmental? St. Paul gives us the answer: "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." Christian correction must begin with love.

I remember encouraging my brother to stop drinking and smoking because I was concerned about his health. At first, he resisted and even stopped speaking to me. Eventually, I realized he may have felt that I was talking down to him. I changed the way I spoke, and little by little, he understood that my words came from love. Sometimes, it is difficult to tell people what they need to hear.

Jesus gives us a practical path: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." Jesus begins not with gossip or gathering supporters, but with a private conversation. Instead of talking about someone, let us talk to them. Instead of building sides, let us build bridges. Jesus assures us, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Christ is present when we sincerely seek forgiveness, understanding, and reconciliation.

May we have Ezekiel's courage to speak when love requires it, St. Paul's wisdom to let love guide our words, and the Gospel's humility to seek reconciliation before divisions grow.

Parish News: Please pray for and consider participating in the Generation-to-Generation Campaign. It is a sign of our unity and shared responsibility. It is not about how much you give, but about each of us doing our part to build the future of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. I hear and understand the concerns some may have from the past. Together, let us build a stronger present and brighter future. When a volunteer or priest reaches out, please answer the call.

From September through Christmas, our parish is offering daily Scripture readings and reflection booklets to help nurture your spiritual life. A limited number are available in the vestibule and by the side doors. Please take one and spend a few minutes each day praying with God's Word and growing in faith.

Beginning this month, we will publish the Sunday collection totals and weekly Mass attendance in the bulletin. On the last Sunday of each month, we will also share the monthly collection report and budget, helping us see how our stewardship supports the life and mission of our parish.

Finally, I wish you and you families a joyful, and restful Labor Day weekend. May this time of rest remind us to give thanks for the dignity of work, the gifts we share, and the blessings God gives us each day.

St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us!

See you in church!

In Christ,

Fr. Deo