

February 27, 2008
Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

Matthew 5:17-19

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Someone recently asked what we are supposed to live by—the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes. Someone answered saying that the former is what we should not do while the latter is what are expected to do. The latter does not eliminate the former. The Ten Commandments is a good place to begin but we are called to stretch ourselves and go beyond the letter of the law. For me, that is the point of Jesus' life. It is not enough to... becomes my mantra for my everyday life. It is not enough to refrain from speaking ill of others, it is necessary to fill the heart of others with kind words helping them to see the value they add to life. It is not enough to refrain from stealing the belongings or the ideas of others; it is necessary to give generously to the world, to the poor, and to those in need in any way. It is not enough to refrain from taking life; it is necessary to give life through my words, my attitudes, and my actions. It is not enough simply not to break the law; it is necessary to bring the light of goodness, the light of Christ into every situation every day. That is a big order. I like to say that I believe we are called to live the radical gospel. Am I willing to live this invitation to its fullest?

*Love God with all your being, and love your neighbor as yourself
~ Jesus*

*If there were love of neighbor there would be no terrorism, no repression, no selfishness, none of such cruel inequalities in society, no abductions, no crimes -
~Archbishop Oscar Romero*