

May 12, 2008
Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

Jas 1:1-11

Psalm 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76

Mk 8:11-13

The Pharisees came forward and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him.

I am an unabashed people watcher. As I wander through grocery stores and the like, I consistently see children arguing with their parents, trying to get them to say yes to what they want rather than accepting their parents directives or position. I am reminded of this scene as I read today's gospel. Knowing that the message of Jesus was so countercultural, I can understand why the people of that time wanted to argue with Jesus, prove him wrong, reinforce 'their' way rather than listen to the new message Jesus brought to them. What I wonder about is, why after 2000 years are we still arguing about the same things? From my perspective, we are still trying to create God in our own image just like the Pharisees 2000 years ago. Among the things we value, status, accumulation of wealth, intelligence, and power and position rank high. Yet, Jesus asks us to value nonviolence, justice, compassion, reconciliation, and mercy. Jesus asks us to forgive our neighbor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, and above all, work for peace and justice in our world. The part of this message that I think we miss is that Jesus' way of living will bring us happiness; it will give life meaning and purpose, not the way we imagine life to be..

For the Christian there is no such thing as a "stranger". There is only the neighbor...the person near us and needing us.

Saint Edith Stein

In what ways do you argue with Jesus?
In what ways do you submit to Jesus' way of life?
Where is the 'growing edge' for you?