

May 14, 2008  
Wednesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

Feast of Saint Matthias

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

John 15:9-17

*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...*

For quite some time I routinely reflected on the words, *Remain in me*. But this past year I find myself more drawn to the words, *...and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain*. It has become crystal clear to me that God is serious about how we are to live our life. I am both grateful for that awareness and burdened by it because it holds a great responsibility. My prayer with this passage has revealed to me that it is not OK to misuse either the earth or the creatures of this earth in anyway, that living a selfish life is outside the plan of God. It has also taught me to take the fruits that my life bears more seriously. In Galatians 5:22, Paul tells us that the fruits we are to bear are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. My reflection with this passage takes me back again to the practice of the daily examen. Looking at my life everyday from this perspective helps me to examine whether or not the fruits of my life that day were of God or of the 'flesh'—that which merely makes me feel good in some way. Did I bear jealousy, envy, anger, greed or patience, generosity, joy, peace? What impact did my presence today make in fulfilling God's plan of a world rooted in love and peace?

*I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions.*

Dorothy Day

What would my family and friends say about me today?  
How would they describe the impact of my actions?