

Sunday 15th (C) in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 10,25-37): A teacher of the Law came and (...) said, «(...) Who is my neighbor?». Jesus then said, «There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Like-wise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him (...).

The Parable of the Good Samaritan. Our frailty is the source of a great treasure

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Pope Francis)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the Lord invites us to embrace our frailty as a source of a great evangelic treasure. Only he who recognizes himself vulnerable is capable of a solidarity action

Compassion for ("suffering-with") who is fallen by the wayside is the attitude that can recognize in the other his own image, mix of soil and treasure: he loves this image, approaches it and discovers that the wounds he is healing in his brother are an ointment for his own.

—Neither robbers nor those who passed by the fallen one are aware of their treasure or of their mud. The first ones do not value their own lives, and therefore they do not mind leaving the poor man half dead. The priest and the Levite do value their life, but only partially; they dare looking at only that part of it which they deem to be valuable: as they believe they are chosen and loved by God, they have not the courage to identify themselves as clay, fragile mud. They fear the fallen man

and they cannot recognize him; how could they distinguish mud in others if they cannot assume their own?