

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**September 17, 2017**  
**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sirach 27:30-28:7 + Romans 14:7-9 + Matthew 18:21-35**



**Reflection by: Sister Honora Werner, OP**

For me, the scariest part of the Lord's Prayer is the line:  
    Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
    I nearly choke when I say it consciously.

How can this God we call "Our Father" treat me as I treat the others?  
    Is not God all-merciful?  
    St. Dominic's name for God was "Mercy"!

How do those understandings of God match my lack of forgiveness?  
    Really, that question is backwards!  
    **My** attitude needs to reflect **God's** infinite mercy!  
    After all, we are made in God's image, right?

Despite what Willie Nelson sings, "Forgivin' you is easy...",  
    it is never easy for us humans to forgive.  
    Forgiveness is a divine action.

That first Easter Jesus said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."  
    Only then did he go on about forgiving!  
    So we can forgive only in the power of the Holy Spirit!

One more thing. Forgiving is a verb in the present progressive tense!

A woman attended the trial of her daughter's murderer.  
    She pleaded for mercy for him!  
    When asked when she had forgiven him she replied,  
    "I do it every day. Over and over again. I am never finished!"

Forgiving. Present progressive. God, with the help of Your Spirit, make us more like You!