

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
September 13, 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sirach 27: 30-28:7 † Romans 14: 7-8 † Matthew 18: 21-35

Reflection by: Sister Alice Uhl, OP

Recently several of us watched a 1944 classic movie, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, starring Gregory Peck as the missionary priest, Father Francis Chisholm. Whether it was dealing with the arrogant visiting bishop, the high-handed Mother Superior or the deceptive Christian "Rice" couple, Father Francis modeled the spirit of forgiveness that permeates this Sunday's Gospel. Forgiveness is certainly one of the keys of God's Kingdom.

This week's Season of Creation invites us to reflect with gratitude on all the failings, sins, and abuses of creation that God has forgiven us and is now calling us to confront, heal and transform. The call is to be prophetic, yet patient, non-judgmental and forgiving with each other if we hope for God to forgive us.

To recognize how precious God's forgiveness for the misuse of the gifts of creation is, we need to be conscious of how precious and sacred those gifts are.

- How has God patiently increased our awareness of the preciousness of the gifts of creation?
- How can we expand our consciousness of the ways we continue to live unconscious of or unconcerned about waste, pollution, a "throw away culture," overuse of resources, inequality and poverty?
- How can we express and live out our gratitude for God's patient forgiveness to us personally? As a community?

(See <https://www.dominicancenter.org/season-of-creation-jubilee-time-for-earth/> for the complete Second Sunday reflection: pages 14-16.)

So, it seems that the movie, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, the reflection of the Season of Creation, and our Gospel all help us to realize that forgiveness is one of the keys to heaven and for a happy life here on Earth.

