

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

October 18, 2020

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6 † 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b † Matthew 22:15–21



**Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann O.P.**

As I prayed the readings for this Sunday, two thoughts came to mind: how divided we are as a Church and a nation, and that we all belong to God. Like Cyrus in our first reading, whether we know it or not, God is with us and uses us for good.

In a recent forum at Boston College, our Cardinal shared that it was possible to vote for either presidential candidate—that we needed to see what was best for the common good “in the sanctuary of our conscience.” I asked myself, “How does one do that? How do we know what’s right or wrong?”

The Cardinal’s office was deluged with calls, emails and letters from a group who were sure they were right and condemned him for suggesting that there was more than one single issue to look at in the reality of the protection of life. Where do we find truth? I would like to believe that we must look within the truth of who we are and who this Jesus is who calls us to follow him. Violence, hatred, and disrespect find no place in the gospel invitation. It is difficult and challenging to go within to find out who we are and what we are called to do. We struggle with truth. We find it hard to listen. With deep prayer we enter the sanctuary of the Living God—the God who calls us by name and summons us to love as we are loved.

Sometimes politics can make us deaf and blind. Conversion calls us to see as God sees and love as God loves. What shall we choose? What belongs to Caesar? Do we know we belong to God?