

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

September 26, 2021

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25–29 † James 5:1–6 † Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48



Reflection by: Sister Elise Redmerski, OP

As a child I was terrified when I heard this Gospel passage. What would I look at to cause me to have my eye plucked out? Would a glimpse of a bad picture do it? And what kind of a sin would cause me to have my hand or foot cut off? As an adult, I understand the extreme measures preached in this passage. It focuses not on what I do but rather on what I don't do.

This Sunday we are celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis has chosen **Towards an ever wider "we"** as the title for his annual message. This day calls us to build an inclusive community who are learning to live and care for each other. For me, this gospel passage calls me to the inclusivity of Jesus' mission—the mission he passed on to us.

Are my eyes open to the needs of today? What or whom do I see when I look at pictures of our brothers and sisters who are refugees? Can I walk that extra mile or at least take some steps with our brothers and sisters who are migrants? Can I reach out to lend a helping hand to those in need? Is my circle becoming a wider 'we' learning to live, preach and build an all-caring open community? How open is my mind and heart?

And one last thought: Aren't we all migrants on this earth?