

Getting Ready for Chapter 19

Take Home



The New Commandment and the Works of Mercy

There are people who are so afraid of breaking rules that they can become paralyzed when they have to make a decision. Jesus often challenged the rules that governed civil and religious practice. He had respect for the law but taught that the law was made for people, not the other way around. The law Christ teaches is simple but demanding. It requires us to use love as the standard by which we judge our actions.

ACTIVITY

Loose Change Make a donation box and put it in a special place. One day this week, ask your whole family to collect loose change and place it in the box. Take the money collected and give it to a charity, such as Catholic Relief Services or your parish.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Look in your parish bulletin for ways people offer service to the community. Is there something that your family could participate in?

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint Louise de Marillac
(1591–1660)

Saint Louise de Marillac founded the Daughters of Charity community in 1633. She was a friend of Saint Vincent de Paul, who depended on her assistance. She was an intelligent and generous woman and had great stamina and determination.

Patron Saint of: social workers
Feast Day: March 15



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, help us to be good stewards of all the good things you have given us. As we remember the good works and deeds of Saint Louise, give us the strength to spread your love. Amen.



Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Beggars In New Testament times, beggars were commonly seen outside the temple gates or along the roads. Making up about fifteen percent of the population, they were forced to live outside the cities and villages. With little or no support from their families, they begged for food or alms. Beggars were often blind or suffered from other disabilities or illnesses. Jesus embraced the begging poor and taught his followers to treat them with compassion.

In Matthew 25:31–41 Jesus invites us to ease the sufferings of others by caring for their physical needs.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Film

Monsieur Vincent In 1948 a popular film was made about Saint Vincent de Paul, called *Monsieur Vincent*. It tells the story about the sixteenth-century saint growing up in a poor family. He was a bright, charming, ambitious boy who was drawn to the priesthood. He became wealthy and was even chaplain to the queen. Then in midlife he discovered his vocation to serve the poor. He devoted his talents to serving the underprivileged, especially prisoners and slaves, and used his association with the rich to fund his charitable projects. He founded the Vincentian Order of priests and helped Saint Louise de Marillac to establish the Sisters of Charity.