

In today's gospel we find the disciples arguing over who is the greatest. They were like family, weren't they? A little sibling rivalry among the followers of Jesus.

Jesus had just told them he must suffer and die. Had they heard? Were they not able to understand? Perhaps. This was a new concept for them. The one who is the greatest is the one who will lay down their life for others.

Jesus uses a small child to teach his disciples about what it means to follow him. A child had no status in society, Jesus put his arms around the child and in effect says: receive into your hearts, into your lives all those who have no place in society - the throwaways, the marginalized, the refugees, the lonely, the lost, the forgotten. The list is long. No one is to be left out.

Jesus cares for each one, and invites us to do the same.

We pray for this each week in our Sacred Heart Prayer when we say "Inflame our hearts with love for you and all you love."

We can't do it alone. We need our prayer and the prayer and encouragement of one another.

This week, let us pray that we may be true followers of Jesus, honoring the dignity of every person in word and in deed.