

## Getting Ready for Chapter 19

# Take Home



## The Church Is a Witness for Justice and Peace

Jesus Christ's early followers shared his concern for those who were suffering. Today, Church members actively work for justice and peace. This involves compassionate action toward victims of injustice as well as efforts to remove the causes of injustice. Jesus said that those who will inherit the Kingdom of God show compassion for the hungry, thirsty and sick, and for strangers and prisoners.

### ACTIVITY

**Whodunit?** Make a guessing game with traits of different witnesses for justice and peace. Consult a book about the lives of the saints if you need material to make questions for the game.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Check the bulletin for any announcements for the parish peace and justice committee.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://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 José María de Yermo y Parres**  
(1851–1904)

José was a simple and humble Mexican priest. He felt a strong call from God to continue Jesus' service to the poor and suffering. He founded the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a home for the poor and abandoned. His life was one of prayer and sacrifice.

**Feast Day:** Sept. 20



**A Prayer for the Week**

We pray today to thank you, God, for a servant such as Saint José María de Yermo y Parres. Help us to hold out our hands as he did to those who are poor and suffering. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Samaria** Jesus and his family, along with other Jewish families, traveled to Jerusalem for major festivals, such as Passover. The long journey, on foot or donkey, would have taken them south along the fertile Jordan valley. As they traveled they would have avoided Samaria. Many Samaritans were descended from people who had settled in Israel after it was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Many Jews despised the Samaritans for being a mixed race and treated them as enemies.

In the parable found in Luke 10:25–37, Jesus portrays the Samaritan, not as an enemy, but as a compassionate friend.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Justice

**Migrant Workers** In 1966, Cesar Chavez, a man of the Catholic faith, founded the United Farm Workers Union to promote migrant workers' rights and fight unjust labor practices. He knew the importance Christ gave to forgiveness and encouraged his followers to do the same as they worked and struggled for respect and justice. As a migrant worker in his youth, he saw the injustices that workers experienced at the hands of their employers. As a result, he devoted his life to improving the lives of migrant workers. He helped restore their dignity by getting better pay and working conditions for them.