30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm 18

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice (Entrance Antiphon)

I laugh because I don’t have to preach this week. Just listen to the readings and you can make up your own sermon.

My job is to take the readings and apply them to this day and age. Now I’ll leave that up to you.

Just a few hints.

### From our first reading, ”You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves….” Aliens are of matter of course strangers. They dress differently. Eat differently. Talk differently. Perhaps even look differently. They may wear a different style of clothes. It seems from TV and magazines and movies in America, we like people wearing the least amount of clothes possible. Remember, we were all aliens once upon a time. The Lady in the Harbor welcomed us –

###  "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she

With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" – Emma Lazarus

Now fit all that in today’s present context.

In the Gospel, we heard: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Who is our neighbor besides the Canadians and Mexicans? Isn’t the poor sap that was beat up and robbed and left in the gutter our neighbor too? Would we pass the test of the scholar that wanted to prick the skin of Jesus with a barb of words?

I’ll leave the sermon up to you. You can take a look at the readings during the Offertory or after Communion. The readings are always listed at our website – BMTDepew.org.

Good luck with your homework. And as you do your homework remember what St. Paul says in our second reading, ”(Become) a model for all believers.”