

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 2/15/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

First Reading – Sirach 15:15-20: You can choose to keep the commandments and trust in God. God sees everything and gives you the choice between life and death, good and evil.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 119: Happy are those who follow God's law with all their heart. Teach me, Lord, to follow your commands and give me understanding to keep them faithfully.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 2:6-10: We share God's hidden wisdom, planned for our glory, which the rulers did not understand. God's prepared blessings for those who love him, revealed through the Spirit who knows everything.

Gospel – Matthew 5:17-37: Jesus teaches his disciples to fulfill the law, surpass the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, avoid anger, lust, and false oaths, and always speak the truth.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every nation or organization, large or small, in human society needs laws to maintain discipline, order, security, and social justice. Today's Gospel begins with Jesus affirming that He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill the Law and the words of the Prophets.

1. How is it fulfilled?

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matthew 5:17-18).

This fulfillment has at least two meanings: (1) For the Jews, the law and the prophets are interconnected, so Jesus' fulfillment means that He accomplishes and brings to completion what God promised in the Holy Scriptures. He is the destination and the fulfillment of what is written in the Old Testament. The law does not lose its validity in any way but reaches its fullness in and through Christ. (2) From now on, in Jesus, the law is observed with a spirit of freedom and love for God, not as a forced obligation. From now on, the law takes on a new form: a law for human life, not a restraint on humanity according to the letter of the law. Jesus invited His disciples and the "new people" to be more righteous than the scribes, not according to moral criteria, but demanding a commitment to God and placing righteousness on the foundation of Himself, instead of being content with the righteousness of the scribes, which is righteousness based on observing the Law of Moses.

2. Jesus Perfects the Ten Commandments.

After discussing the fulfillment of the law, Jesus explains several commandments from the Ten Commandments: the fifth commandment (You shall not murder), the sixth and ninth commandments (You shall not commit adultery – divorce), and the second and eighth commandments (You shall not swear falsely and bear false witness):

You shall not murder (Matthew 5:21-26)

The Mosaic Law stipulated that murderers should be brought to trial, and depending on the law, justice was sought based on social norms, applying the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" when the offender had acted wrongly.

The perfection of the Gospel law goes beyond merely considering physical actions as sins; even anger and insults are worthy of being brought before the council and deserving of hellfire. Indeed, killing is not limited to physical acts, but malicious words and insidious schemes are far more terrifying...

This perfection extends not only to human relationships but also to our relationship with God; offending one another is an offense against God and deserves to be consumed by the fires of hell.

You shall not commit adultery (Matthew 5:27-32)

The Mosaic Law only prohibited adultery through action, but Jesus wants God's children to have a pure heart, from thoughts to words and deeds. When there are dark thoughts and desires to sin in the heart, it is already a sin. Earthly courts only judge external actions, but God, who sees all secrets, will judge us from the heart.

Jesus' statement about cutting off anything that causes sin should not be understood literally as cutting off hands or gouging out eyes, because if that were the case, no one would be whole due to the inherent weakness of human nature. What God wants to say here is that we must remove ourselves from and avoid dangers that could lead us to sin, even if it means accepting some personal loss, such as avoiding immoral publications, staying away from inappropriate places, and refraining from consuming substances that cause us to lose control...

Regarding the old law allowing divorce, it was not given by God, but Moses accepted it because of the people's weakness. Jesus perfected this law in a new spirit by affirming the indissolubility of marriage.

Do not swear falsely (Matthew 5:33-37)

The third commandment of the Ten Commandments forbids using God's name to swear or doing evil in His name; the eighth commandment forbids bearing false witness against one's neighbor. Jesus perfected these laws by teaching that we should not swear at all, but simply say yes or no, for anything more than that comes from the evil one. In saying this, Jesus wants us, in this new spirit, to clothe ourselves in God, the Truth, and live honestly, in contrast to the cunning and deceit of the devil, the father of lies.

In short, the perfection of the law that Jesus teaches us is not the abolition of the law, but rather imbuing the law with a new spirit, meaning going beyond negatively observing the law to actively fulfilling it in Christ: observing the law not out of obligation, but with the freedom to do so out of love for God and neighbor, transforming the law from a restraint on oneself into a means of sanctification, and observing the law not only in outward actions but also with an upright and pure heart.

Lord Jesus, grant us the grace to obey Your teachings, so that we may joyfully observe the laws of God and the Church in a spirit of love and unity in You, so that the law is no longer a burden, but helps us to become more like You. Amen.