



Last week's Gospel had us in the vineyard and we are still there in the Gospel this week. We were invited into the vineyard to share in God's work – God's Project.

In my homily I reminded all of us that in whatever our work, it can be a graced endeavor. Grace is in the stewardship of sharing in the mission of God for our world. Both weeks once again challenge us to revise our old definition of what we think is just and fair in our relationship

to God and our neighbor. According to this world's standards, we often find it difficult to deal with those whom we believe have done the least – getting the same "reward" as those who have worked the hardest.

I often find this reflected in a variety of volunteer situations. "Why should I do this?, when all the others aren't helping," or I am told "you need to get some of the others helping," followed by a list of why the particular individuals think they are among that "elite" group who have worked all day long in the vineyard – and deserve a reward.

Last week we suggested that we die to our old sense of fairness and rise to a new life of grace. Choosing to live in a graced world

and choosing to live in the contrast of that graced world are

diametrically opposite. Choosing the former requires that our commitments, values, and intentions are aligned with Christ. The contrast is always looking from the outside – and as we so often say "It isn't fair," It's like beginning to swim and saying "I would love to do that"; but never sticking



even a toe into the water.

It is easier being a spectator, or a sideline coach, because naturally – all our calls are correct.

So this week we are again being invited to share in God's project for the world. That may call us to work with God this week in unexpected ways. It could be volunteering in the soup kitchen, the nursing home; visit a sick neighbor – volunteer in PSR or in school; or just being more intentional in what I do during the week in our homes, in my work environment, or even as we watch the news on TV or on the internet. It really is about my willingness to go into the vineyard of God's world and make a difference.

LGaetano

