

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in ordinary Time**

**THEME: Responsibility for one another**

### **Introduction**

**There used to be a public service announcement on television we have all heard. "Friends don't let friends drive drunk". It means we have a responsibility for our friends . This goes against the grain of people not wanting to get involved in the lives of others. But friends have a responsibility for their friends.**

**And we Christians have a responsibility to others. That is the theme of today's readings. Our readings today list three different kinds of responsibilities we have to others . The responsibility to speak , to respect and to heal.**

**First we have a responsibility to speak. The prophet Ezekiel in today's first reading speaks of the role of the watchman to warn of danger. We have a moral duty to speak the truth about right and wrong whether to society or to individuals. There**

**are different ways of doing it but as Christians can we be silent when there are attacks on innocent life , when our society is going in the wrong moral direction when people we know are damaging themselves ? The Lord says to us , through Ezekiel today that we have a duty to speak .To say nothing is to become morally complicit in the wrong another does , like watching another damage anothers car. If we speak, and that person refuses to listen, we have done our duty. We have the responsibility to speak the truth to another.**

**And there is the duty to respect another. St Paul lists in his letter to the Romans the duties of love: do not kill , do not commit adultery , do not steal , do not covet. We can state them in a positive way. We have the responsibility to respect another's life, respect another's marriage, respect anothers property and respect another's integrity.**

**Finally the Gospel reading goes a little bit deeper into our responsibility in dealing with conflict. We can call it the Lord's teaching about conflict resolution or conflict**

**management. Here is the case: What do you do if someone does something wrong to you ? How is the Christian to handle it.**

## **CONCLUSION**

**The point of today's readings is that Christian love is not a feeling or an emotion but a responsibility. The greatest harm we can do people when they face spiritual danger is to do nothing and just look the other way. AMEN.**