

In 1711, English poet Alexander Pope wrote his *Essay on Criticism* where we get three often cited quotes.

1. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
2. A little learning is a dangerous thing.
3. To err is human; to forgive divine.

In today's Gospel, Jesus sums up the *Sermon on the Mount* and it too contains many often quoted lines.

1. Love your enemies.
2. Turn the other cheek.
3. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Many of these admonitions are easy to say but hard to put into practice.

Today is September 11.

For most of us, we can remember where we were on that fateful day 13 years ago.

For myself, I remember being sent home from work, and how quiet it was on the freeways downstate. Traffic was the most cooperative that I'd ever seen it in 20 years of driving on those chaotic freeways. And the sky was clear and blue.

One can argue if the world is a better place 13 years on ... or 303 years since the publication of the *Essay on Criticism* ... or 2014 years since the birth of Christ.

I use the line from Pope's *Essay* to remind myself and others that "To err is human; to forgive divine" ... means that everything is grace. We humans, acting on our own plans and our own devices tend to make things worse. Yet God's plan and God's ways ... while easy to say, are nearly impossible for us to implement on our own.

The secret is grace.

What is impossible for us on our own becomes possible when we do it with divine grace ... acting in God's will and according to His plan.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray to more fully rely on God's grace in everything we do ... the little as well as the great. May we, through His grace acting in us, better live out loving our enemies, turning the other cheek, and doing unto others as we would have done unto us.