



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 24, 2025

Isaiah 66:18-21 Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 Luke 13:22-30

I would like to focus on the beginning of the first reading we have from the Prophet Isaiah.

We heard: *"Thus says the Lord: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory."* (Isiah 66:18)

As the new school year kicks off, I share an example from Alice Camille how we can apply the words of the Lord we just heard from the Prophet Isaiah. It's an example that most of us have experienced in some way. Not just in school but everywhere.

It will surprise no one that many Scripture commentators – like me – do not moonlight as sports legends. I was one of those kids who was rarely chosen for a team until all the other picks were made. I would be drafted into the game sometime after the boy with the cast on his arm, and the child who weighed fifty pounds. My lack of coordination was notorious, not to mention my indifference to the spirit of competition, a notion I could never quite get the sense of. How could the outcome of a game matter?

Still, when my sister Sue was playing, I got on her team every time. Sue was a sports legend – tough, determined, as strong and as fast as any boy on the block. And since everybody wanted Sue on their team, when she was playing, I was playing, period. My hapless performance couldn't offset her brilliant one. If a team would not agree to take me, Sue wouldn't play, so that cinched the deal.

Sue did what God does, according to the prophecy. God makes the playing field of truth open to all comers, regardless of standards and suitability. God's clout is irresistible. Whom God invites, no one can exclude. (from This Transformed Word Cycle C by Alice Camille, Acta Publications, 2015, p. 174)

So, I ask this question of myself – and invite you to ask the same question – no matter your age.

Who gets excluded in our family, or where we live, go to school or work?

What can we do to include them?

Are we willing to enter that narrow gate of Jesus to make our lives wider, more inclusive?

Bringing Home the Word Prayer