



Liturgy Cycle B

# Twenty Sixth Sunday Of The Year

## A Stumbling Block Or A Stepping Stone

### Introduction

Modern life has brought us closer to one another than even before. We influence one another in all sorts of ways. God wants us to be, not stumbling blocks, but stepping-stones for one another.

### First Reading (Numbers 11: 25-29)

Up to this the gift of prophecy had been given to Moses. Now many others are given it. Joshua resents this, but Moses welcomes it.

### Second Reading (James 5: 1-6)

This contains a strong condemnation of wealth, especially when it is obtained through the exploitation of the weak.

### Gospel (Mark 9: 38-43, 47- 48)

Anyone who is not against us is with us. But woe to those who would scandalize the little ones.

### Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to the Lord that he will help us at all times to be stepping stone and not a stumbling block to others.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For Christians: that they may be a light to others and never a source of darkness, a helping hand and not an obstruction. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all employers: that they may never exploit their employees; rather that they may treat them in such a way as to further their dignity and self-respect. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For all those who been victims of exploitation or scandal: that they may overcome the obstacles that have been placed in their path. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That they may never destroy the visions of others, or make a mockery of their ideals, or pour cold water on their efforts. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

### Communion Reflection

"Woe to the person  
who leads the little ones astray  
It were better  
that a millstone were tied around his neck  
and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea".

What would Christ say of today's abortionists  
who terminate the lives of the little ones  
even before they see the light of the day?

Or of today's drug pushers  
who wreck the lives of the young?  
Or those who corrupt the young,  
pouring slops over the souls?

If you saw a young tree vandalized  
you would be angry  
because of what the tree could have become.  
Christ saw a marvelous potential  
in every child (and in every person).  
He did not want to see that potential ruined.

A writer, looking at a little child  
in a railway carriage, said:  
"This is a life full of beautiful promises.  
Little princes in legends are no different from this.  
Protected, sheltered, cultivated,  
what could this child not become?"