

**Friday after Ash Wednesday Readings:** Isaiah 58.1-9a – Fashionable feast; Matthew 9. 14-15 – First, Unfair.

**Reality:** “Our MX missile program alone could feed 50 million malnourished children, and build 65,000 health care centers, and 340,000 primary schools. Yesterday, 48,000 people in our world die of starvation. Today, another 48,000 will die of starvation...and tomorrow 30,000 of those will die of starvation before reaching the age of one.” (Pax Christi)

In opposition to the U.S. war with Mexico, Henry David Thoreau refused to pay his taxes, and for this act of civil disobedience the government incarcerated him. When his friend, Ralph Waldo Emerson, offer to pay the taxes for him, Thoreau refused to allow it. Frustrated, Emerson went to the prison to visit him. “Henry,” he asked, “what are you doing in there?” Thoreau replied, “What are you doing out there?”

**Prayer:** God of the poor and oppressed, you do not let us rest in our comfortable homes, help us to live simply so others may simply live.

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