Jesus mentions peace in this evening’s gospel. Throughout the gospels, Jesus mentions “peace” more than two dozen times. Jesus values peace. He promotes peace. And he instructs us, saying, “I do not give peace as the world gives peace.”

How does the world define peace? Politically, as an absence of war? Psychologically, as harmony in our relationships?

But Jesus sees a deeper reality. Jesus sees the hearts of people. He sees and does not deny behaviors, but looks deeper than behaviors. Jesus sees the hearts of people; he sees what inspires or motivates people. Jesus also perceives deeper than the heart. He sees everybody’s “being,” which possesses and revels the image of God in people. Everyone on the face of the earth has been created in the image and likeness of God. Following Jesus’ way, the Church defines peace as “union in love.”

Now, to make an application. Privately, think of somebody you don't like so much. … By the way, oftentimes we don’t like in other people what we don’t like in ourselves. Also, oftentimes, it is not people that we don’t like, but we don’t like what they do, their actions, their behaviors.

Without denying those disgusting actions, can you imagine why they do, what they do? Beyond that, can you perceive the image of God within that person. … You will attain Jesus' peace by not denying disgusting or repulsive or evil actions, but looking beyond that to try to see the person’s motivations, and looking beyond that to see the image of God within each person. You might detest what the person does, and you might detest their motivations, but you will have to respect the image of God within that person.

Peace is not just getting along. It is getting along because we truly love and respect the being of the other person. We love each person because he is a child of God. When we perceive the child of God in each person, it is much easier to love that person.

Peace is union in love. In people we like and even in people whom we can’t stand, try to see the image of God, the goodness of God. In that way, you will experience peace, i.e., union in love, the peace that only Jesus can give.