

**I ask that prayers and petitions be offered ... for all in authority,  
that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life, in all devotion and dignity**  
**2nd Reading**

**No matter what you might think of President Obama,  
you should admit that he has brought grace and dignity to his office.**

**As for the political climate these days -  
it is shrill, contemptuous, and often degrading.**

**The "F" word has been publicly uttered.  
A handicapped person has been mocked.  
Opponents have been publicly scorned and derided.**

**We are indeed in need of prayer.**

**The Gospel today is enigmatic and convoluted.  
Make friends with crooks we are told!**

**What is this all about?**

**What Jesus is really saying is that the children of darkness  
are all too often much more clever in their activities  
than the children of light.**

**ISIS propaganda - indeed any kind of propaganda -  
can be much more EFFECTIVE than the truth.**

**The ending lines of the Gospel are very dramatic:  
"You cannot serve both God and Mammon!" [Money]**

**Last week Mother Teresa was canonized.  
She showed by her life's work that  
love is more precious than any gold.**

**And so we pray:  
O God, we pray for our President and all our leaders,  
that we might, through their efforts for the common good,  
lead more tranquil lives.**

**Amen**