

## **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time B cycle 7-8-18 Homily notes**

**Review the first chapters of Mark's gospel which reveal the success of Jesus' early ministry:**

- **Powerful preaching and teaching**
- **Many miracles and expelling demons**
  - **Healed Peter's mother in law**
  - **Woman with the flow of blood**
  - **Raised Jairus' daughter from the dead**

**Comes to his home in Nazareth; a small village of a few hundred people. He preaches in the synagogue. At first they are impressed with his preaching. Then they begin to question:**

**"How could someone who grew up with us be speaking like this?"**

**"Is this not Mary's son? You know Mary; she lives down the street."**

**"Was he not the carpenter in the town? Didn't he build the new desks for the school?"**

**"Don't we know his brothers and sisters?"**

**"and they took offense at him".**

**Jesus is shocked by their lack of faith. And because of their lack of faith, he can do little for them except to lay his hands upon a few and heal them.**

**Lack of faith; what does Jesus mean when he speaks of *their lack of faith*.**

The Catholic Catechism says that “Faith is a personal act—the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself” (*Catechism*, [Paragraph 166](#)).

***Faith: to receive God's love and respond to it***

**“Faith is [like] God’s door into human hearts, but it can only be opened from within.” (Mary Healy)**

**A failure in faith is like closing or even locking the doors to our hearts and keeping God out.**

**That got me thinking about my own faith in God; where did it come from? One main source of my faith came from my parents’ and their lives never belied their faith. They gave to me a strong witness and a gift of incalculable value. Family prayer, their daily work, their commitment to love their children and share with them fully the faith they had.**

**Another strong building block of faith in my life was my parish St. Rita Church: St. Rita, a middle class parish in Detroit with 3,500 households. St. Rita had a Catholic grade school and high school which I attended. Wonderful priests and group of 25 Sisters from Nazareth who taught in the school.**

## **PAUSE**

**Often as we mature in life, the fire of our faith diminishes: It's then that I need to stir the seemingly smoldering coals of my faith by making a journey back to reground myself**

- in the reality of my parents' faith,**
- in the reality of what branded my soul in our parish community,**
- in the reality of the witness and catechesis of the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me, and, not least,**
- in that clear, deeply moral, divine voice that spoke inside me and guided me in my youth.**

**I would like to give you some Divine Homework: I would like you to list how you came to faith; who were the people that were witnesses of faith in your life?**

**As you recall the family members in your youth handed on their faith, and our local faith communities taught us of the love of Jesus, we can flame into a fire that rich experience of faith, we too are called to be prophetic witnesses of faith in Christ in our world.**

**PAUSE**

**Our age has had its prophets: Sr. Thea Bowman, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Thomas Merton, Mahatma Gandhi, Pope John XXIII. Theirs were not easy lives, and many of them were killed by “rebels who have rebelled against God.” Because of their lives, which bore witness to “the power of Christ,” the rest of us have been able to grow in faith.**

**In today’s first reading God speaks to the prophet Ezechiel saying “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites.” That message to Ezekiel echoes in God’s sending of today’s prophets. It would be a mistake to think that only Bishop Romero and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and those like them had a calling to be prophets. That same God who sent the prophets of the past is sending us out this week.**

**Our faith proclaims that WE are a prophetic race, called to be prophets in the midst of “a rebellious house.” Our task is “to bring Good News to the poor,” to speak God’s word in such a way that “they shall know that a prophet has been among them”.**

**Yes are prophets first to our families and friends and then to those we see suffering in our world.**

**Here is your Divine Homework for the week: I would ask you to list who are the people you are called to witness the presence of God to today?, family? Friends? people at work? Other youth?**

**My brothers and sisters, God is in our midst.**

**Let us recognize him,**

**welcome his presence and healing in our lives,**

**and share his Good News in good times and in bad.**