

Twenty second Sunday in ordinary Time

By the time the morning service was about to begin, there was only one man in the church. The priest said to him "It looks like everyone has slept in. Do you want to go home, or should I preach the sermon?" The man replied "When I go to feed the chickens and only one comes, I still feed it." The priest took that as a yes, mounted the pulpit and delivered an hour long sermon. At the end, he asked the man, what he thought. The man replied "When I go to feed the chickens, and only one comes, I don't give it the whole bucket!"

Dear Friends,

We all know a little bit about film making. After they shoot everything, they try to do an editing. It applies to all the field. Nowadays you can edit things in your phones. Editing means modifying it.

Today's readings ask us to edit ourselves to the wishes of God. what does God think of us?

In the first reading, prophet Jeremiah uttered his confession in frustration telling that God deceived him. He poured out all his anger. He could not accept the failure. But he could feel the burning fire inside him. He did not unfriend God and his mission. In our reality, if we don't like someone, something, some place, we try to unfriend it. We cannot unfriend God. He is there with us from the beginning of our womb to the time of our death and beyond.

In the second reading, St. Paul talks about spiritual worship. He requests the believers to give the best to God. Give yourself totally as living sacrifice. Discern the will of God, give what is good and holy and pleasing to God. When we give something, we lose ourselves into the giving. He asked us to give ourselves to God.

The gospel today is the continued lesson of understanding of Jesus Christ. Human mind wavers between both good and evil, right and wrong. God stays the same. Peter said that Jesus was the messiah and the messiah of the glory. God is with the suffering people. It can be any kind of suffering. Jesus rebuked Peter for that reason.

We want to be happy in our life on earth. But to reach out that happiness, we need to struggle and journey a lot. 'Can anyone say that he doesn't know any struggle in life? He is always happy.'

Jesus tells all the disciples to deny and carry the cross. I use the word, editing which I mean is scrutinizing ourselves. I see garage sale all over around us. what does it tell us? it

tells two things to me. Don't accumulate too many things for yourselves. Give it someone who can use it.

In faith, let us fine tune our life, our understanding of God. God wants us to do that every now and then. Like Jeremiah, who realized in his heart.

Jesus follows God's standards. To lose oneself for God's sake means to find oneself. It is not unfriending someone. Rather losing for the better one. St. Paul said that he would consider everything rubbish in order to gain Jesus.

Questions for reflections:

1. How do I discern god's will in my life?
2. Am I ready to deny myself?
3. What is attitude on suffering and glory?