

Fifteenth Sunday in ordinary time

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so Bill applied for the job. The interview started. Okay, Bill what is 1 and 1? "says the sheriff. Bill replied, "11".

The sheriff thought to himself, that is not what I meant, but he is right. All right, here is another question," he said. What two days of the week start with the letter "T?" Today and tomorrow.

He was again surprised the Bill supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself. Now bill, listen carefully: who killed Abraham Lincoln?" the sheriff asked. Bill thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, I don't know."

Well, why don't you go home, and work on that one for a while? So, Bill went home, where his mother asked how the interview had gone. Great! He said, first day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

Dear friends,

Vocation is a gift which needs to be lived out. Whether we are in married life or in other way. We are to witness the Gospel in our life.

Today's readings ask us to reflect about witnessing the gospel in our own place. In the first reading, prophet Amos was sent out to proclaim the God's message. He received rejections and threats. The priest of the temple in Bethel ordered him to flee the city and return to the land of Judah from which he came. Amos in reply said that he came to deliver God's prophetic message to the priests and the people only because God commissioned to do so.

In the gospel, Jesus, like the prophets before Him, was rejected by the people of his hometown as he corrected the people of Nazareth for their prejudice. But instead of getting discouraged, Jesus went with his disciples to the neighboring towns and villages, preaching and healing all who believe. Jesus then prepared the apostles to go serve as heralds to announce to the towns the Master would soon visit, bringing the Good News of the salvation. Today's Gospel repeats for us the instruction Jesus gave the apostles for their first mission.

We, too, have a witnessing mission: Each Christian is called not only to be a disciple but also to be an apostle. As disciples, we are to follow and imitate Jesus. As apostles, we are to evangelize the world. We are called to share with others not just words, or ideas, or doctrines but an experience, — our experience of God and His Son, Jesus. Like the apostles, like St. Francis of Assisi, like St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), we are all chosen and sent to proclaim the Gospel through our living. It is through our transparent Christian lives that we must show, through our own actions, the love, mercy and concern of Jesus for the people around us.

Since we are baptized, Jesus is calling us in our working and living environment to evangelize, to invite people to know, love, serve, and follow Jesus for the rest of our lives. An important

part of evangelism is the simple act of inviting a friend or family member to join us in worship. This is where reconciliation between persons and God is most likely to take place. We do not have to commit verbal assault on someone with our convictions. A simple invitation, offered out of a loving and joyful heart, is the most powerful evangelistic message of all.

So let us happily follow and evangelize the world by our witnessing life as the disciples did. We need more witnesses to spread our faith.