

Sixteenth Sunday in ordinary Time

A Father is lecturing his lazy son, "All you do is sit around the house all day!" Well, what would I get if I have a job? Says the son. You'd get a salary and a pension. Replies the father. You would be able to settle down, retire and not work anymore.

The son shrugs, "I do that now."

Dear Friends,

We are all stressed with so many things. During this pandemic, parents found it hard to keep the children at home day and night. Teachers were not able to do their jobs online. Children were not able to be in front of the device the whole day. Such as this, we all had different way of life. We all need peace. We all need rest. We were much happier when we were asked to remove our masks.

Today's readings tell us about God's compassion for his people and brings peace. In the first reading, Jeremiah delivered an oracle against the kings of Judah who associated with false prophets and with the priests of Jerusalem. His main message to the people was that God as their shepherd would bring peace to them and bring them back to the land.

The Gospel today is the continuation of last week's Gospel that the disciples came back after their mission and were ready to report. They were exhausted and tired. Jesus asked them to go across and take rest. People also heard and followed him. We all need rest and peace. Jesus as a good shepherd listened to the disciples and the people who needed more.

Jesus cares for everyone. He wants to bring peace to all of us. Jesus understands the needs of both the apostles and the people and tries to fulfill both. The greatest food that Christ brings to satisfy the needs of God's chosen people is peace. We will read the multiplication of bread next Sunday how he not only teaches and feeds them, which clearly brings the thought that he takes care of everyone.

Jesus listens to all of us. He listens and answers all our needs: Sometimes in our time and other times in his own time. We do not have the patience to reach out to him. Prayer is a good tool to speak to God as well as listen to God. Jesus listens and teaches with compassion and love. Sometimes it is good to be with the Lord. We need to search for God in our daily life.

Often, I have felt that I need to spend more time with the Lord. With work, I feel like I am exhausted today. Sometimes when I am alone, I go and sit in front of the Tabernacle. I do

not know what to say to him but be there in front of him. When I leave, I come out with some joy.

In the second reading, St. Paul talks about peace. Jesus who is peace, established by giving his life on the cross and preached for everyone who were near and far.

In this Gospel, Mark outlined the inner story of the Gospel that shepherd's compassion will reach its fulfillment when he lays down his life for the sheep.

We need God's grace to become good shepherds: The Christian life is a continuous passage from the presence of God to the presence of people and back to God again. Prayer is essentially listening to God and talking to Him. We should allow God the opportunity to speak to us and recharge us with spiritual energy and strength by setting aside enough time for Him to speak to us and for us to speak to Him. He speaks to us powerfully when we spend some time every day reading the Bible devoutly and meditating on the message God gives us in Scripture. We receive strength from God to do our share of the shepherd's preaching and healing ministry by asking for it individually, within the family, as a community in the parish Church, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration.

It is our role to play the role of Jesus to bring peace to our family, neighbors and in the community. As we remember and call it as community Sunday, let us be compassionate to listen people around us. May it be a smile, a couple words or small accompaniment of places and help.

I read the following quote in the book. "Do something beautiful for God", abandonment is an awful poverty. There are poor people everywhere, but the deepest poverty is not being loved."