

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Two priests died at the same time and met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. "Our computer's down," said St. Peter. "You'll have to go back for a week, but you can't go back as priests. What'll it be?"

The first priest said, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains." "So be it," said St. Peter, and off flew the first priest.

The second priest thought for a moment and asked, "Will any of this week count?"

"No," said St. Peter. "Well," the priest said, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," said St. Peter. A week later, the computer was fixed, and the Lord told St. Peter to recall the two priests. "Will you have any trouble locating them?" he asked.

"The first one should be easy," said St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rockies, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove more difficult." "Why?" asked the Lord.

"He's on a snow tire somewhere in northern Ontario," said St. Peter.

Dear Friends,

We all have our own convictions and commitment we try to follow in our lives. When we live out our convictions, we will have some struggles and difficulties. If we face those, we can win. There is also a possibility to compromise sometimes. In today's world, people try to compromise in their lives.

Today's reading shows the people who were courageous for God in their lives, amidst all their struggles. In the first reading, Jeremiah relayed an unwanted message to citizens of Jerusalem. They threw him in a jail cell. They all wanted Jeremiah to die because he preached against Jerusalem. God proved that he was with Jeremiah. He used a Cushite to save him. God is with people who follow him in their lives.

The second reading tells us that Jesus, our master himself, suffered for us. He endured all the suffering and bore all opposition.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that he brought fire on Earth. Fire is the symbol of light, purification and life. There are a lot of quotes in the scripture that associates the fire. This is a symbol of courage which destroys the evil and brings a new life.

In General, as Christians we need to understand one thing. We worship and follow a God who is divine, and as a human was hated by the world and humiliated. He had been rejected and he became the cornerstone.

The point is this: Christianity is the only religion which worships the scapegoat, the one who is hated, excluded, spat upon, blamed for everything, ridiculed, shamed, and made

expendable. Christianity is the only religion that focuses on imitating the victim and which sees God in the one who is surrounded by the halo of hatred.

I believe Most of us have unexpressed expectation that if we do what God wants, God should do what we want. Well, sometimes he does, and sometimes he doesn't, at least not right away. We need courageous followers with commitment. There are prophets who are alive in all the times. Sometimes we forget to listen to them.

Let us be courageous in our faith. God will be with us. we read in the Beatitude, "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Mathew 5:11-12)