

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, June 25

### **Reading 1 Jeremiah 20:10-13**

In this reading, I was really compelled to slow down and read and re-read. I learned that this reading involved Jeremiah pouring out his heart to God. In his prayer he wished for vengeance, just like we sometimes do in our own lives. When you feel that you have been treated unfairly you naturally wish that justice would be done.

I really tried to think about how I have seen this reading play out in everyday life. The analogy that worked best for me was that young person that is "all in for Christ!" They attend Mass, they are a part of the life of the parish whether it be liturgical ministry, or choir or serving at Mass on Sunday. They have been blessed with parents who support their need for spiritual nurturing. They understand that the Eucharist is the Source and the Summit of their Faith

We are blessed with these youth and young adults while they are with us and then we are doubly blessed when they head off to college. It is no surprise they stay involved with their Catholic presence on and off campus.

How do I know this? Several of our youth that were in the first group of young people to be extraordinary ministers are now juniors in college. They have been away to college for three years with plenty of opportunity to be distracted with other activities. Several of them have called to ask about serving while they are home and just last weekend I saw one of them step in when we were short at 10:30 Mass. Brian Connelly in our choir is a gifted guitarist. He attends Greenville College and is very busy but you can count on him returning home to play with the choir as much as he possibly can. His parent's spiritual nurturing encourages him to share his musical gifts. We should all do the same with our own unique gifts.

During my younger years Christmas was always the Christian holiday of choice. As I matured and really have a better understanding of my faith the Triduum during Holy Week and Easter Sunday trump that. Christ came so that we might have eternal life and have it more abundantly. I heard that many times in the summer of 1993 during Pope John Paul II World Youth Day in Denver. Do Not Be Afraid was his challenge to youth!! He shared how the devil will try to tear us down but constantly encouraged us to be men and women of prayer.

### **Gospel Mt10:26-33**

This Gospel is about becoming Missionary focused! We are called each and every Sunday as we finish Mass to go out and share the Good News! The Gospel says "proclaim it from the housetops." The challenge for the early disciples was to leave the secluded upper room where they felt safe. Today the challenge for us is to continually engage and grow in our faith so we feel confident sharing with others when they have questions. Many times we do things here at the parish that are open to parishioners and non parishioners alike. It is important for us to share our thoughts and intentions with others. There is nothing to be afraid of and we will be doing HIS will.

Kevin Collings