



Bringing Home the Word

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

July 7, 2024

Who Do You Think You Are?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This question is not always posed in a spirit of lightheartedness. It could be hurled at someone in indignation. This indignation might be justified; the other could be assuming an unwarranted attitude of superiority. However, the fault could be our own. We might resent another's genuine insight or unquestionable wisdom. There seems to be within some of us a sense of inferiority that is threatened by the abilities of others—as if their talents diminish those who feel inferior. And what do we do about this? We might ignore such an individual, implying that she or he has nothing that interests us.

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 2:2-5

Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ.

Mark 6:1-6a

Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?... He was amazed at their lack of faith.

This probably happens more often than we like to admit. Or we might try to embarrass the person, thus lowering the individual in the estimation of others. This is how some people depicted in the Gospel passage acted toward Jesus.

Prophets are not people who only look into the future. Such people are called seers. Genuine prophets have insight into the present, understanding the implications of the social forces that are operative and the challenge they might pose to religious traditions. That's why they are so often resented. We see this attitude in the passage from Ezekiel. God sent him to a rebellious people to call them to repentance. Chances are, this did not make him popular. It also did not make Jesus popular with some. So often we applaud people who have religious insight—unless we know them well. Then we may think, *You're no better than the rest of us. Who do you think you are?* †

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A Word from Pope Francis

We would...like to believe in a 'special effects' god who does only exceptional things and always provokes strong emotions. Instead, brothers and sisters, God incarnated Himself: God is humble, God is tender, God is hidden, he draws near to us, living the normality of our daily life.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do you appreciate the insights of others, even when they challenge your own?
- Who do you think has insight into today's chaotic world? Why?

Marriage Prep: Start Young!

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

From the time I was about eight years old, my Aunt Hilda would say, “When you become a priest, please pray for me.” As a boy, the priesthood sounded like a good idea. I didn’t know clearly at the time that I was called to be a priest, but maybe she saw something in me that I had yet to discover. During those growing-up years, my parents and other relatives gave me encouragement. The priests and religious in our family hoped a new generation would sign on. And we did. But no one ever said to us, “I hope you’ll be a good husband or wife” or “I hope you’ll be a good mom or dad.” Shouldn’t they have?

From our earliest years, our parents teach us about marriage. As we age, we

find ourselves repeating words, actions, and behavioral patterns ingrained in us from our youth. Marriage preparation



begins at birth, long before one’s spouse is known, not when the couple signs up for Pre-Cana, reserves the church, and finds a catering hall. What did you learn from your parents about marriage?

I think we in the Church should treat the call to married life in the same way we treat the call to the priesthood and religious life. Start young! Promote marriage and what makes a happy, healthy, and holy marriage. At confirmations, bishops often ask who wants to be a priest or a religious. They follow with some instructions on how to nurture the vocation. Marriage should get equal time. The bishops should ask who wants to be happily married some day and tell young people how to prepare well to live that vocation. The future of the Church and the world hinges on the health and holiness of those who live the married and family vocation. †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Five Guidelines for Discerning Your Vocation” by Fr. Dan Lackie, OFM

Whatever the context of our vocational discernment—whether we’re discerning marriage, single or religious life, or ordained ministry—we can be assured that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, where two or more are gathered, there he is in our midst, ready to confound, delight, and orient us in the direction of our deepest joy. In the end, blessed hungers or holy longings will lead us to where God wants us to be. Daily prayer, facing our fears, and being honest about our own habits of thinking and acting are fundamental in approaching life decisions. When they’re rooted in a personal assurance of God’s loving embrace, they can lead to life choices that reflect God’s will in our lives. †

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Faithful God, teach us to listen carefully to those dearest to us, our young ones and our elders, and all those you have given us to love. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 8–13

Monday, Weekday:

Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22 / Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday, Weekday:

Hos 8:4–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday, Weekday:

Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12 / Mt 10:1–7

Thursday, St. Benedict:

Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9 / Mt 10:7–15

Friday, Weekday:

Hos 14:2–10 / Mt 10:16–23

Saturday, Weekday:

Is 6:1–8 / Mt 10:24–33

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