

January 27-28, 2007

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-19

First Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Luke 4:21-30

Don't kill the messenger!

There is great risk in being the spokesperson for different realities and different truths than some people wish to embrace or perceive. Those that speak in opposition to what others want people to hear or think are frequently persecuted and portrayed as out-of-touch, not patriotic, evil and threats to society. Thus, we hear of Jesus in essence telling the leaders of the synagogue that they had lost their way and pointing out references to how the gracious power of God was extended to people other than the ones they perceived as 'worthy.' To say that the leaders did not appreciate this commentary is mild, the Gospel says they were 'filled with fury' and 'drove Jesus out of the town' intending to hurl him over the edge of the mountain. Wow...talk about going to extremes to not hear a differing viewpoint! The promptings of God and the compassion he calls us to exhibit to others are not vetted by political or lobbying groups. The urgings of God to see ALL people as created in his image and likeness are frequently at odds with the polarizing stridency of assorted 'movements'. The voice of God spoken freely to people's hearts must be extremely frustrating to those who don't want people to think or act in an independent manner. Yet, today's Gospel highlights that Jesus is not afraid of challenging the status quo and rocking the boat. This weekend here at Corpus Christi we present and accept our first Pastoral Services Appeal presentation in our new Grand Hall. There are always those who don't like the annual monetary pitch, apparently living in some fantasy world where parishes don't have to pay off loans or pay for insurance, heat and lights. There are some who think that the presence of walls, windows and floors mean that the hard job is behind us and we need do nothing more. The difficult message for our community is that the responsibility for continually funding our development, eliminating our loans and moving our community forward rests solidly on our shoulders. The task is as real for us today in 2007 as it was when we began using the PSA as our primary annual pledge drive, back in 2000. So, risking life and limb...here we go with this year's Appeal. Look around you and relish what your past generosity has brought to fruition...and realize that we still have much to do...and the only way for us to get there is for ALL of us to help carry the load. And finally...please...**Don't kill the messenger!**

Thank you for sharing worship with our Corpus Christi Community. If for some reason you did not receive your PSA mailing we have extra packets available on the Concierge Shelves...feel free to take one for yourself...and perhaps share another one with your extended family (parents/grandparents) who may wish to help further the growth of the parish attended by their kids! (Stranger things have happened!) Please take a copy of this week's Bulletin with you as you depart...lots going on in the week's ahead, and you don't want to miss out! 'Rooted in the Past – Growing into our Future'... remember, you were loved in the past, you are loved now and you will be loved in the future. FKB