



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee October 2024

Ongoing Formation

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We are into the second half of Ordinary Time...the time of ongoing formation for disciples. It is our yearly refresher course in the meaning of our baptism. We are becoming better disciples of the Word with each passing year. Day by day, with each Eucharist, the Risen Lord transforms us, little by little just as he transforms the bread and wine. He makes us more and more food for others and wine to delight our hearts, getting us through the tough times.

So we are slowly moving toward Advent, but we have some important formation to go through yet. Notice that the structure of the Liturgy has just put us through the Bread of Life weeks... yes, the cycle of Mark was interrupted by a few weeks of again turning to John. This happens whenever that Church wants to take our formation into deep water. John's gospel on the Bread of Life is featured. Why? Because we need to be reminded how our "change" takes place. As Godfrey Diekman, OSB said years ago: "What difference does it make that Jesus can change the bread and wine into his body and blood if he can't do the same for me?"

So what are the texts after the Bread of Life series doing? They are revealing to us the fruits of this change in us...in the Church...in disciples of the Word. The fruits...? Get ready...to be blessed, broken, and shared...as you become more and more a Disciple of the Word.

Will it hurt...this change you seek in me?

Maybe.

*Yet you weigh in the palm of your wounded hand
Just the amount of suffering you need to change me.*

You keep on giving...pouring yourself out

In the breaking of the Bread.

There are tough lessons in this Discipleship School

But I have a wonderful teacher

Who never leaves my side.



Thank you to S. Lisa Kane for this month's reflections.

Sunday, October 6, 2024 | 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24 | Hebrews 2:9-11 | Mark 10:2-16

The readings today center around marriage, relationships, and the blessings of family life. The union of two lonely human beings yearning for community and finding it in one another is the great climax of the second creation story. Genesis 2 reminds us of God's original intention and desire for humans—to find in at least one other person a bond of love that runs so deeply and so intimately that we never feel alone. The reality and the mystery of human love is that it cannot compare with the love of God.

Sunday, October 13, 2024 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11 | Hebrews 4:12-13 | Mark 10:17-30

Today's readings challenge us to prioritize trust in God over attachment to material possessions. The disciples — who were among the lower class and whose perspective had been shaped by a culture that associated wealth with honor, status, and divine favor — are confused. If those who appear most blessed have more difficulty getting into the kingdom than a camel going through the eye of a needle, "then who can be saved?" This is a question which we — who likely are among the world's most privileged — must also ask, remembering that we are accountable for our choices.

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11 | Hebrews 4:14-16 | Mark 10:35-45

Today's readings highlight the theme of discipleship and the cost it entails. The first reading prophesies Jesus' sacrificial mission for humanity, while the second reading assures us that Jesus understands our struggles and encourages us to approach God confidently for mercy. In the gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples about the importance of humility, sacrifice, and serving others, not themselves.

Sunday, October 27, 2024 | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9 | Hebrews 5:1-6 | Mark 10:46-52

The Mass readings focus on the theme of spiritual blindness and that Jesus can give us new vision. The first reading speaks of God gathering and healing His people, while the gospel recounts the healing of Bartimaeus, a courageous blind beggar. These readings prompt us to reflect on sight, healing, faith, and the power of Jesus' call in our lives.