



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee February 2022

Like a Flashlight Beam

We are into 'Ordinary' Time. It is a call to smile while we do 'ordinary' things...like the laundry, the shopping, filling up the car, and brushing our teeth. Why a knowing little smile? Because the Word who married our humanness thought it important enough to spend thirty years doing those ordinary things with great love. Those ordinary things were the bulk of his human life, as it is with ours. Reflecting on this gives a whole new meaning to what we consider the hum-drum. And so, the knowing little smile as we intentionally pour all our love into the day-to-day.

If we think of it, the liturgy of these weeks unwraps this like an extended flashlight beam, starting quite focused and then ever expanding. The child in the manger is the focus, seen first by Mary and Joseph. Then the expansion starts: the shepherds, then the Magi; Simeon and Anna and John and the Jews at the Baptism; then comes the apostles at the wedding of Cana, and finally the Purification in the Temple. Once the Light is out there, who knows where it will reach...! Maybe to you...maybe to me down the years.



The Light is loose in the world. What does it do? First, it cleanses...it purifies. Then it finds a home deep within us and shines. Yes, even biologically we 'glow.' Our magnetic field can be picked up by sensitive instruments. So maybe we need to intentionally 'light up' each morning with that knowing little smile. For we have a guest, we are never alone. That Guest radiates risen life. Though it is veiled by our own physicality, what if we just made a point of 'putting it on' when we dress to remind ourselves that we are so loved? So, smile as you look in the mirror. Take on your ordinary day in an extra-ordinary way!

Out there, it's another grey wintry day . . .

But not in here.

You're here with me.

So, I smile as I look in the mirror.

*Nothing is going to happen to me today
that you and I together can't handle.*

Your love lights me up . . .

You are the wind-beneath-my-wings . . .

With you my heart sings!

Sonshine . . .!

Even if out there . . . it's just another grey winter day.

**Thank you to S. Janet Ackerman and Linda Lysakowski
(Adrian Associate Candidate) for the February Reflections.**

**February 6, 2022 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**

We look at the relationship of the crowd with Jesus in today's Gospel. The crowd pressed in on Jesus. They listened to him. Jesus heard their unspoken desires and taught them from the boat. Put out into deep water and lower your net for a catch. When your net is full, open yourself to the help given by community, by others, by collaborators in your outreach. What are those deep waters in your life and how do you reach into them?

**February 13, 2022 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17-26**

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day. Behold your reward will be great in heaven.” This may be one of the hardest passages in scripture to hear. Who wants to be excluded, insulted, even hated? And then Luke tells us to leap for joy! What is he thinking? But we remember the words, when they hate exclude, and insult, it is because we are speaking out in the name of the Son of Man. Yes, this is cause for leaping for joy that we have the courage and strength to speak of and for Jesus. So, rejoice and leap for joy every time your words of truth and justice are spurned or ridiculed. Keep speaking!

**February 20, 2022 | Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38**

There is a challenge and stretch in today's Gospel, calling us to be/do more, or better said, allowing God to do the work in us that will bring us closer. Gratitude and generosity of spirit are core practices to help that movement along. Love is a never ending call, challenge, privilege, and command for missionary disciples. Loving our enemy is a radical call of the heart, a heart which would much rather enjoy warmth and comfort. Doing to others as you would have them do to you, takes a noble heart. How will you respond to that call in your life?

**February 27, 2022 | Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45**

“The fruit of the tree shows the care it had.” If we want to be able to pick ripe, full, sweet fruit, we must care for the “trees” in our life---our family, our friends, our community, and the wider global community. We are called to care for Mother Earth and all that is contained within her---the trees and plants, the animals, the seas, the mountains, the cities, and God's ultimate creation---all of humankind. Our care as co-creators can produce the rich, ripe, sweet fullness of God's love here on earth.