



# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee*

*July 2022*

## *The Goal of Ordinary Time*

We enter the 'green' time...the time called 'ordinary.' But it isn't really ordinary at all, because we are no longer ordinary. We have renewed our baptismal new life through the Paschal celebration of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. We shine from inside out.

We have been formed for mission and witness during these past fifty days. The Spirit has come to mark us with our seal as a disciple. So now our task in this 'ordinary' time is to put on, bit by bit, what a disciple will need. Ordinary time is a school of discipleship. Week by week we say, "So this is what a disciple needs...!"

First come the big feasts: The Trinity, Corpus Christi, The Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart: Three Persons, One Body, and Two Hearts. The triune mystery lies hidden in all creation. One creature cannot be complete without another. The Body of Christ meets us everywhere, in deepest suffering, crying out to us. The hearts ask our deepest love as we live, move, breathe, and serve.

In the five Sundays ahead of us we will be given our clues: this is what a disciple of the Word needs: his kind of peace, humbleness, presence, prayer, detachment. The basics...listen.

*I'm ready. By your Spirit shape me.  
Give me what I need. Without your Breath I'm empty.  
Sing your song in me.*



*Thank you to Associate Jean Gfall for this month's reflections.*

**July 3, 2022 | Isaiah 66:10-14c, Galatians 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-19**

*Luke 10:3 Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.*

I do NOT like being unprepared. I like planning with maps and brochures, having reservations and knowing where I'll lay my head at night. We tell our kids to save for a rainy day and our loved ones not to go where it's dangerous. This is not ordinary stuff Jesus is asking. But 'discipling' is dangerous. It demands risking listening to other opinions rather than speaking, requires not being prepared with every answer, trusting that in being NOT ORDINARY, we might be taken seriously as followers Jesus who was, himself, certainly NOT.

**July 10, 2022 | Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37**

*Deut. 30:11-14 For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you....No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."*

My grandson sometimes does "magical thinking". It's belief that one's thoughts or desires can influence the external world, like wishing for a pony and believing it will appear. Maybe we adults could use a little "magical thinking" as we try to be open to God's presence working in and through us, believing that we can indeed influence our world. It's a matter of believing that what we've seen in Jesus is already within us; that with the Spirit's presence, we can influence events around us, not by 'magical thinking' but rather by serious doing. Not magical but also NOT ORDINARY. So go, it's already in your mouths and hearts and - in your hands.

**July 17, 2022 | Genesis 18:1-10a, Colossians 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42**

*Luke 10:41-42 The Lord said to Martha in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."*

Jesus doesn't tell Martha to quit preparing food and sit down with them. He doesn't even suggest she join them. Martha's not doing anything wrong. Someone has to cook! Jesus just invites her to consider her prioritizing her list so it's NOT ORDINARY. How's yours? ORDINARY or NOT?

**July 24, 2022 | Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13**

*Gen.18:21 In those days, the LORD said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out."*

There is outcry on many fronts today. It's loud and frenzied – for good reason - maybe. But it makes it hard to see clearly. Reason, calm, the ability to see beyond the happenings gets muddled. How do we hear ALL the voices? How do we come to understand more than just our perspective, get underneath the hurt, the pain, the history that has caused the outcry? How do we become a path to repair, to healing, to reconciliation? The question in Genesis is do the actions fit the outcry? Or is there more than meets the eye? The Lord said, "I mean to find out!" Can we too do what is NOT ORDINARY and search out the truth rather than go with the crowd's opinion?

**July 31, 2022 | Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23, Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11, Luke 12:13-21**

*Luke 12:13-14 Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?"*

Most of us in "ordinary" life have very little difficulty moving into judgment mode. We do it daily as we peruse the dress, weight, clothes, whatever of others. We do it at home, at work, with friends, with those we don't think of as friends. We do it with Democrats, Republicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Buddhists, Muslims, people who look different than us. We look and we see 'other' and in that moment we judge. It feels like we shouldn't do that. Maybe that's because we tend to judge negatively. But Jesus, instead of settling this dilemma for the man, challenges him to judge what's RIGHT himself. Jesus challenges us too to judge but with HIS eyes and heart. We have been shown compassion, mercy, love, justice, humility in Jesus and his challenge for the man is for us too. Can we find our way into judging like Jesus which is certainly NOT ORDINARY?