

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10-13
Ps 69:8-10,14,17,33-35
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10:26-33

Monday June 26

Genesis 12:1-9
Ps 33:12-13,18-20,22
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday June 27

Genesis 13:2,5-18
Ps 15:2-5
Matthew 7:6,12-14

Wednesday June 28

St. Irenaeus

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Ps 105:1-4,6-9
Matthew 7:15-20

Thursday June 29

Sts. Peter and Paul

Acts 12:1-11
Ps 34:2-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Friday June 30

Genesis 17:1,9-10,15-22
Ps 128:1-5
Matthew 8:1-4

Saturday July 1

Genesis 18:1-15
Luke 1:46-50,53-55
Matthew 8:5-17

Think of a time when you were in darkness: a sin, for example, or when you felt abandoned by God or your prayers seemed dry and your spiritual gifts seemed covered over. What did Jesus say to you at that time (perhaps through scripture or friends or a homily at Mass)? What did his whisperings tell you? His words and his guidance were good news for you!

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says: "Whoever hears my words and does not believe, I will judge him on the last day because he has not loved me or those who have sent me, but he hates me. He's calling you and commissioning you and empowering you, through his Holy Spirit, to share your good news with others, so that they can hear him in *their* darkness. Proclaim it boldly and visibly so that those who want to hear it will stop and listen. Do not be afraid to openly share how Jesus has been working in your life and how he's helped you grow or heal or turn away from sin.

Yes, when we're this bold, some people ridicule us and reject us, like how Jeremiah was treated in the first reading. But the Lord is with you, too, as "a mighty champion," and your persecutors will eventually stumble and fail. Jesus tells us to "fear no one." God takes good care of us.

Jesus acknowledges those who acknowledge him. In other words, when we're insulted or persecuted for our faith, God holds us and comforts us. It's *his* opinion of



us that matters anyway, and no one else's. Listen to him. In the whispers of the sanctuary of your heart, he's telling you all the good that he sees in you. He's telling you that he appreciates the good you have done. He's giving you good news worth sharing.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What is your testimony? What did Jesus teach you when you were in sin or handling a recent difficulty? Write it down; this exercise will help you feel more confident when you try to share your story with others.
2. Practice sharing the testimony you realized during the above personal reflection: Proclaim it first to your community of friends who understand.
3. As you listen to the testimonies of others, encourage them: Tell them how their story helps you.
4. Make a commitment to go forth and spread the good news. What does this commitment look like? What will you do first to fulfill your commitment?