

## ***Peace is....faith and faithfulness***

Ezekiel 2: 5 ***“And whether they heed or resist - for they are a rebellious house – they shall know that a prophet has been among them.”***

2 Corinthians 12: 9 ***“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”***

Mark 6: 5,6 ***“So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there... He was amazed at their lack of faith.”***

### **Reflection:**

Through our baptism, we faithfully participate in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king.

The Catechism refers to the **common priesthood of the faithful** as “a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit.”<sup>1</sup> When we offer to the Lord our whole day, our prayers, works, joys and sorrows, we participate in building up the Church as the body of Christ. When we offer up our suffering in union with the sacrifice of Christ, it is given redemptive power. It is through suffering that we can be configured to Christ, coming closer to Him. It is when we are weak, when we have nothing left, that God can take over. Then we rely on God alone. The Lord tells us through St. Paul that, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*” This teaching lies in stark contrast to the teaching of today’s society.

“A real prophet, by teaching and good example, leads others to faith. St. Francis of Assisi once said, ‘***Preach always. Sometimes use words.***’<sup>2</sup> We are commissioned to share Christ’s prophetic mission and preach Christ’s message, especially by our actions, whether or not it is comfortable or easy, whether or not we are heeded or resisted, even when we may be ridiculed for doing so. Even a child or person without a formal education can teach the truth. In today’s gospel, the people from Jesus’ home town refused to accept His teaching. He was unable to perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith. Without faith, we are unable to see the truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let us follow Him.

We **share in Christ’s kingship** by our servant leadership. We are to be faithful to what God has called us to do, whether it is in a particular ministry in the Church, or through the sharing of our gifts in our daily activities. We are to develop and use the gifts God has given us for the good of others. This is stewardship. Nothing we have belongs to us. It all belongs to God. We give everything back to God through loving service to others. We also exercise kingship over ourselves when we pursue holiness. By doing so, we allow our souls, not the desires of our minds or bodies, to guide our actions.

### **Action:**

- **Let us pray for our priests, who minister to us, who offer prayers on our behalf, and who are our prophets, speaking to us on behalf of God, in order that we might be saved.**
- **Invite someone you know who has been away from the Church to come to Mass with you next Sunday.**
- **Through prayer, discern how God wants you to participate more fully as His disciple. Then take the first step to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

***Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness.*** ~Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

<sup>1</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994, #1547.

<sup>2</sup> United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 2006, p.117.