



## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 4, 2021

- Our Mission: **“Share Christ with the World”**.
- Our Vision: **“A dynamic and joyful church where people experience God’s saving love”**.

These lead us to a consideration of what our priorities are as a parish – what we **VALUE**. This week we introduce another: **The gift of true friendship, rooted in love of God and neighbor.**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5 • Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

### **Gospel of Mark 6:1-6**

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

### **REFLECTION & DISCUSSION**

Through baptism, we are sent on mission to live out the Great Commandment. We are called to Share Christ with the World, to participate in the work of God by proclaiming His saving power and bringing others along in discipleship. Our readings today portray three figures who experienced challenges as God’s messengers — Ezekiel, St. Paul and Jesus.

- Doesn’t it feel as if we are living in a culture that is, at best, disinterested in Jesus? A world that is more and more characterized by unbelief? If so, do you feel the challenge is too great to change anything? What would help you on this mission?
- Can you think of a time when speaking the truth made you unpopular?
- What struggles do we encounter in our “hometown” that can make it tough to be with old friends, family, acquaintances? What about to share the love of Jesus with them?

- Mark tells of the people who knew Jesus the most but understood him the least. This is the reception Jesus received in his hometown: *“Who does he think he is?”* He had grown up there. His family was known. He was known as carpenter’s son. It is unclear what exactly this turned them off. What do you think? Jealousy? Pride? Whatever your answer may be, discuss how such states of mind may keep people from God.

### **FRIENDS IN FAITH, FRIENDS IN TRUTH**

We know this – our journey of faith is not an easy path to walk. Sometimes, the resistance is within us; other times we will face resistance like Christ did from the world. But we will be in good company with the martyrs and the Saints.

- Do you ever mix your church friends with other friends? Why or why not? And when you do, how different is the conversation with various sets of friends? Does God ever come up with your non- “church” friends?
- How do “friends in faith” make it easier to be Catholic? Do we count on our friends enough? Do we go out to do God’s work enough with friends?
- How do you show that you value the gift of true friendship rooted in love of God and neighbor?

### **From the Friendship Novena**

Saint Bonaventure and St. Thomas,  
pray for me and my friends.

St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis  
Xavier, pray for me and my friends.

St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare,  
pray for me and my friends.

St. Louis and Zelig Martin,  
pray for me and my friends.

St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal,  
pray for me and my friends.

St. Martin de Porres and St. Rose of  
Lima, pray for me and my friends.

St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross,  
pray for me and my friends.

St. Mary Magdalen and St. Mary  
Salome, pray for me and my friends.

St. Dominic Savio and St. John Bosco,  
pray for me and my friends.

All the angels and saints,  
pray for me and my friends,  
that we may always lead each other  
to holiness and heaven.  
Amen.

Servant of God Elisabeth Leseur and Soeur  
Marie Goby, pray for me and my friends.