



Twenty-Second Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Following Christ is not always going to be easy. Very often, being His disciple will mean suffering. Some of the worst suffering will be those around you who decide to walk away from you because of your faith. Listen to the anguish in the words of the prophet Jeremiah. God's word preached by the prophet has brought about derision and discord. Violence is waged against him and he is mocked by everyone. Yet the prophet cannot help but fulfill his mission by God. It burns within him like a fire that cannot be quenched. He must complete what he set out to do in his life, namely to speak God's Word to those around him.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans begs the brothers he writes to, that they offer their bodies as a living sacrifice which will be acceptable to God. He warns them not to conform to the present age but rather be transformed in mind in order to please God and fulfill their destiny.

In today's gospel, Matthew records the interaction between Jesus and His disciples. He begins for the first time to inform them of His impending suffering, death and resurrection. Peter resists this idea and seems to speak words that Satan would use to tempt our Lord to run from His mission. Jesus rebukes him. Following Him means denying oneself, being prepared to take hold of a cross and follow the path Christ will tread. The promise of Jesus is that those willing to give their lives for Him will be rewarded in the end.

Each of us is called in our own way to lay down everything for the prize of life without end with Jesus. Surrendering everything for Him is not limited to possessions but includes our heart, our mind and our will. Choose Christ and live!

Peace,

Father Robert