

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Aug 30th, 2020

In our first reading we hear the frustration and discouragement of the Prophet, Jeremiah. He is called by God to speak to the Israelites; urging them to change their evil ways and return to God. To renew their commitment to follow the Covenant. Jeremiah discovered that the change needed cannot be accomplished without the help of God, for the people had to allow God to change their minds and hearts. For Jeremiah it had to be a conversion deeper than a temple services and sacrifices. It had to be a change of heart.

I wonder if our prophets of today are equally challenged. Pope Francis? John Lewis? Benedictine Sister, Joan Chittister? Who would you think of as today's prophets?

In our Gospel today, we are challenged to "take up our cross, and follow Jesus". Perhaps our cross is to let go of our stubborn ways and open our hearts to a deeper way of being, to change our minds and welcome the stranger, whoever that may be.