

Deacon Tony's Homily for August 3, 2014 -- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time.

It doesn't sound like such a good day for prophets. You have to wonder how God must have felt when He hears His prophet report back with words like, "You duped me Lord".

This isn't what I signed on for. All day long, I am the object of laughter. I'm speaking God's message and all I get from the people is grief. I quit! I will not plead Your case before the people again! But when he stops it continues to flow through him.

God reads hearts. He knows the prophet Jeremiah has a good heart and even though he complains about the difficulty of the message, God knows that he is the best man suited for the task. Jeremiah needs to fix his eyes on the Lord and not allow the people to determine whether he will speak up for God or not. His job is to state God's case and let the chips fall where they may.

Then there is Peter. What a day he is having. He has to hear Jesus call him Satan. That's a name we don't want to be called; and by Jesus no less! I hate when that happens! Peter seems to have the same problem in a way as Jeremiah. He has his eyes fixed on this world and what people will think. Your Master is going to suffer and be killed on a cross?

Throughout Jesus' life we have always seen Him fix His gaze on the will of the Father. He was never swayed by public opinion or whether someone was mocking Him.

**The Father's will was all that mattered. It was always priority #1.**

But we need to look to Paul, who prophesied to the early Christians in Rome:

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"do not conform to this age but be transformed by the **RENEWAL** of your mind".

**Then you can discern God's will in your life.**

Renewal...what a special word.

When we have our eyes fixed on God's will, we see things in His light.

When spouses are having difficulties seeing eye to eye, they can join together in prayer and seek God's grace to overcome their differences and seek His light in order to see the deeper issues.

When parents must do the hard tasks of communicating God's way for their children, they can pray with their children. And not just at crisis time but before they leave for school everyday or at the end of the day, in order to teach them to turn to God first. Show them how important it is to make God's will the number one priority in their lives.

If you are dating, start your dates with a prayer and ask God to keep your intentions pure.

If you have a special friend and you are thinking of marriage when you are around that friend, pray together to seek God's will for your relationship. Sign up for a retreat or a "Christ Renews His Parish" weekend and be open to allow God to guide you in this very special relationship.

Grandparents also have special calling to speak God's words to their grandchildren. We can show love towards them and more importantly we are called to show them how much we love and depend on Jesus in order to find true peace and happiness in this life.

At our Baptism we are anointed Priest, Prophet and King. These titles are not usually claimed by the average Catholic but none the less, that is what we are called to be.

**1241** The *anointing with sacred chrism*, perfumed oil consecrated by the bishop, signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian, that is, one "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king.<sup>41</sup>  
(1294, 1574, 783)

As priests we share the concern for God's people with ordained priests who share in Christ's office. We become living sacrifices.

As prophets we are called to speak God's words in order to build up His church on earth. Share the "Good News".

King - serving. Christ is the perfect King who truly loves His subjects: He died for them! The kingship of Christ is one of service. When we perform works of mercy and charity, we are serving others as Christ does.

May we always remember our calling to be more than a solitary figure but truly a loving member of God's family who cares about those around us.