

Reflection from the desk of the Pastor

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4, 2021 Year B

A prophet is only despised in his own country.

Why was it difficult for the people to believe in Jesus and in the things he did? They lacked faith in Jesus. They regarded Jesus as a regular person whose parents and relatives they knew. In their estimation, Jesus was a local. As such, they could not see anything extraordinary in him. In other words, since Jesus was a man just like them, how did he get such wisdom and knowledge. Jesus could not work any miracles in Nazareth because of their lack of faith. As I contemplate the skepticism expressed by many at the actions of Jesus, I could not help but wonder if I might have expressed similar skepticism due to my familiarity with God's messengers or even with some of our sacraments and rituals. Somehow my familiarity with certain messengers of God might make me blind to the grace of God that is at work in them. You see this same grace of God at work in the life of the great apostle Paul. Despite Paul's personal unworthiness, he was chosen by God to preach the good news to the Gentiles. Have you, perhaps, expressed similar skepticism based on your familiarity with one of God's messengers? When God sends messengers to us, he does not always send them to do extraordinary things or to appear in an extraordinary manner. Sometimes, God's voice comes to us in the silent breeze. Let us always pay attention and try to recognize the hand of God at work in the ordinary people and events of our daily lives.

As we commemorate the passage of the Declaration of Independence by Congress on July 4th, 1776, I would like to wish you all a happy independence anniversary celebration. It is our prayer that the goals and ideals that we stand for will continue to be pursued by all. In our celebrations, let us remember the less privileged members of our community and reach out to them in any way possible.