

## 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Week of July 3

**Reading I:** Zechariah 9: 9-10

**Reading II:** Romans 8: 9, 11-13

**Gospel:** Matthew 11: 25-30

When we were in formation for the deaconate it was stressed that there would be conflicts that will arise in ministry. One of the greatest conflicts is that of balancing ministry and family. We were told family is always to come first. Easily said, but very hard to manage in real life! That is one of the biggest problems our brother protestant clergy face.

This problem only multiplies when you have grandchildren scattered around the countryside and you are trying to keep up with their activities. We were lucky enough to have a nice family vacation last week in northern Wisconsin. In this day and age it is a major project to find a week when four families can get together. We were lucky enough that our children worked it out and we were able to gather.

It is a reminder to keep our priorities in order and make time for what is really important. Family tops the list and our faith community comes next. God intends us to be connected to others. The more we study scripture the more we discover how much emphasis Jesus placed on relationships. How we treat others and pay attention to our families is a foundation of our faith. We are off to chase another grandchild activity this weekend.

As we celebrate the birth of our country, Elaine and I wish you all a blessed and safe holiday. It is a good time to get together and enjoy the blessing of family.

In his peace,  
Deacon Jerry