

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Week of August 28

Reading I: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Reading II: Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27

Just before I started reading this weekend's readings, there was an interview on the radio with the author of a book about the brand of Christianity many in US politics follow today. Then the first line of Jeremiah hit me; "You Duped me O Lord and I let myself be duped". If you recall the story of Jeremiah, he was called by God to be a prophet at a very young age. He told God no, no, no, I do not want to be a prophet. He knew what happened to prophets in his time especially when their message was a tough one like God expected this young man to deliver!

The author I was listening to has a new book out about the Christianity many of our prominent politicians follow. You can be duped when you only look at the front of the Christian flag they wave. I would suggest before picking one, we choose to turn that Christian flag being waved over and read the fine print on the reverse side. The fronts of those flags usually have a few hot button issues featured that people usually are drawn to. But do we know all that these people believe?

How many have you heard proclaiming Jesus' message of advocacy for the poor, underclass, widows, orphans and so on? This is the heart of His Gospel message.

Don't settle for the large print only at this time. Be sure you read the fine print on the back of those flags.

This will be my last message for a while (sorry Fr. Dan). Some will be relieved and I hope a few will be disappointed.

In His service
Deacon Jerry