

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2020

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jer 20:7-9

Rom 12:1-2

Mt 16:21-27

The Cost of Discipleship

In 1937, *The Cost of Discipleship* by a German Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was published. The book reflected on the Sermon on the Mount, and the demands it outlined led to Bonhoeffer's arrest and eventual death at the hands of the Nazis. It can be very dangerous to be faithful to Jesus' way of life. This shouldn't surprise us. Jesus' teaching cost Jesus his life.

Though the Gospel reading does not provide us with a program of action, it repeats Jesus' charge to take up our cross and follow him. This cross is different for each of us; it makes very personal demands. We are called to lose our life for his sake. This was true at the time of Jesus; it is true today.

This was true at the time of the prophet Jeremiah as well. He was called to proclaim God's word to his own people. They would not listen. Instead, "I am an object

of laughter; / everyone mocks me" (Jeremiah 20:7). The prophet wants relief from his prophetic responsibility. Who wouldn't? What follows is quite moving. He makes up his mind that he will stop talking about God—but he can't. "It [the word of God] is as if fire is burning in my heart... / I grow weary holding back" (Jeremiah 20:9). That is the cost Jeremiah had to pay. The cross was the cost Jesus paid. And what of us?

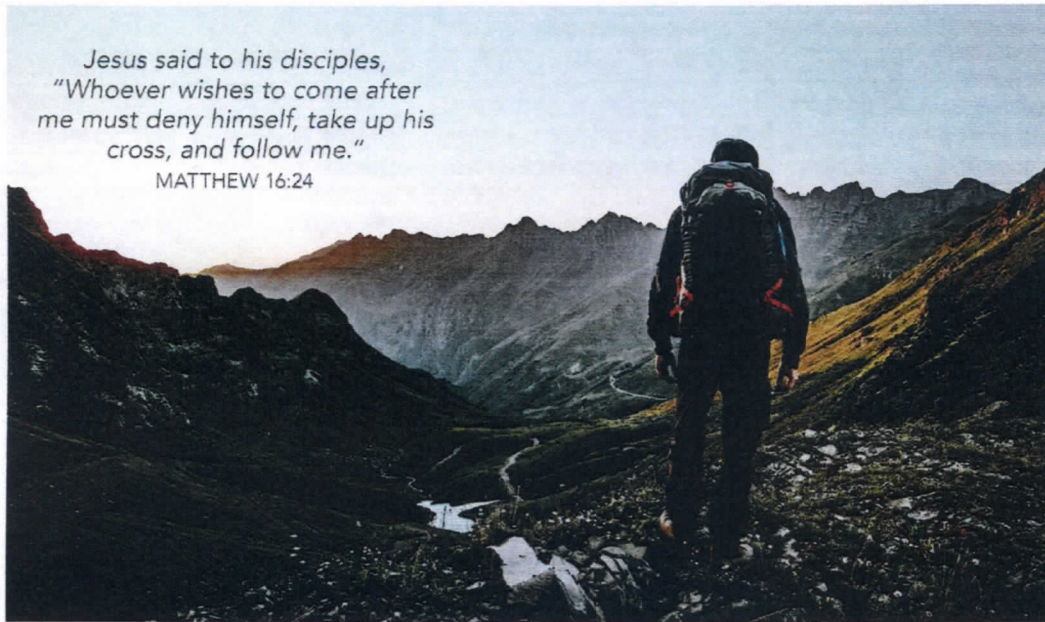
—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- What is the cost of discipleship for you?
- What in your life might be the cross you are being asked to bear?

*Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wishes to come after
me must deny himself, take up his
cross, and follow me."*

MATTHEW 16:24



© 2020 Liguori Publications • Liguori, MO 63057-9999

Dear Padre,

I feel guilty about putting my mother in a nursing home. Have I abandoned her?

Caring for aging, fragile parents is a responsibility that is increasing as people live longer due to advances in medical technology. Accompanying longer lives, however, is often poorer health. Frequently family members conclude that they don't have the wherewithal to care responsibly for their parents. So, they seek a nursing facility where parents may be properly cared for in terms of their physical, psychological, and even spiritual health. Nursing homes with staff that understand the needs of the elderly are a great assistance. They have experience with many elderly residents, while our experience may be limited to our own loved one.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

The situation becomes more complicated when parents ask their children to "never put me into a nursing home." As difficult as it is to refuse this request, neither you nor your parent knows how much care will be needed, so a guarantee isn't fair to the family. The best response would be: "We'll look after you as long as we possibly can, and we would only consider a nursing home if your needs become more than we could handle, or if it were the only place where you could be safely cared for."

Sometimes guilt arises when we haven't had the best relationship with a parent, and regret things from our past. The best response then is to learn from the past and move forward. Commit to being more attentive, even though our parents no longer live with us. The worst abandonment would be depriving them of our love and affection.

—From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Homes for the elderly...should be the "sanctuaries" of humanity where one who is old and weak is cared for and protected....It is so good to go visit an elderly person! Look at our children: sometimes we see them listless and sad; they go visit an elderly person and become joyful!

—MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1-5

Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b-16

Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1-9

Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 3

*St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church*

1 Cor 3:18-23

Lk 5:1-11

Friday

SEPTEMBER 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1-5

Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 5

Weekday

1 Cor 4:6b-15

Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 6

*Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20

© 2020 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 65057-9999. Printed in USA. *Imprimatur*: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on December 18, 2019, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org.

