

REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday's readings tell us that God chooses his prophets and his messengers from among the ordinary people in our community. Sometimes we expect extraordinary people to be our apostles and our priests, but God chooses his apostles from among the people; from those who are close to us; who are our neighbors, our colleagues, even our relatives.

The first reading talks about Ezekiel's vocation and says that he is chosen from among the people, as the *son of man*, the son of Adam, but an equal to all other men. It is this "Son of Man", this man equal to all other men, that God calls, chooses, and sends to bring a word of hope to his people. They may or may not listen to him, but *he is God's prophet*.

In the second reading, St. Paul writes to the Christians of Corinth saying that he stood before them with his weaknesses, without pride, because it is in weaknesses that we are strong in Jesus Christ. Jesus calls the weak, the little ones, to confound the strong, to show that he is Lord of the Kingdom, and we are only his instruments; and that called by him, chosen by him, and sent by him -- even though we are poor and weak, we can and must bring his Good News to the world, because he is our strength.

The Gospel tells us about Jesus going to his hometown. There he is received with suspicion by his countrymen, who marvel at his wisdom and his miracles. They wondered, "*Where did the man get all this? ... This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary.*" Jesus said to them: "*A prophet is despised only in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house, and he could work no miracle there,*" paraphrasing a well-known saying. We think that God chooses special people to be his prophets, and that is why we find it difficult to accept and recognize the prophets at the door. However, it is with the saints and prophets who around us, who went to school with us, who work alongside us, that God works his miracles today. Let us be grateful and recognize the prophets at the door that God sends us today, and let us each try, despite our frailties, to be a prophet of God today in our homes, at work, in our neighborhoods, wherever we are.