

The Cost of Discipleship

“The duty of Christians to take part in the life of the Church impels them to act as witness of the Gospel and of the obligations that flow from it. This witness is a transmission of the faith in works and deeds. Witness is an act of justice that establishes the truth or makes it known”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2472).

The mystery of the Eucharist we celebrate gives us the opportunity to continue to reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which he won for us the gift of salvation. Additionally, this mystery invites us to always follow the examples of Jesus. Hence, our second reading this Sunday, the letter to the Hebrews, succinctly puts it this way, “...*For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.*”

In the first reading of this Sunday, Prophet Jeremiah, who God sent to confront his people regarding their ways and behaviors, was misunderstood as a prophet of gloom and doom. Consequently, they were determined to eliminate him in any way possible. But did the torture met out to Jeremiah deter him from his mission? No! He endured because he knew the faithfulness of the one who called and sent him. It is on the backdrop of Jeremiah’s steadfastness to his call that today’s Gospel gives us the words of Jesus, which seemingly look like the call for divisiveness; instead, it is a reminder of the cost of discipleship.

To be a true disciple means that one unceasingly is an agent of truth and justice without fear or favor. Sometimes, our friends and family can misunderstand or even persecute us, especially when our authentic life of the Gospel contradicts theirs. When people persecute us because of the Gospel, do we compromise, or do we, like Jeremiah, continue unflinchingly to be instruments of truth and justice? Let us ask the good Lord to give us the courage and strength to be faithful disciples who will always stand for the truth and justice. Amen.

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Matthew 5: 10-12).

Blessed Cyprain Iwnene Tansi- Pray for us!