

14th Sunday of Year B; July 8th, 2018

Readings: Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

God's Grace is Sufficient For Us!

The Eucharistic celebration gives us the opportunities to reflect on our lives and our struggles as St. Paul reflects in the 2nd reading today. Paul describes his external and internal struggles. He describes how he has begged God to remove his weaknesses but God answered him that his grace is sufficient for him. Paul believed so much that it was the grace of God that turned him from being a persecutor to a preacher. Thus, he said, "What I am, I am through the grace of God and the grace God has given me has not been fruitless." (1 Cor. 15: 10).

God's grace is enough for us in every vocation we find ourselves. Recognition of God's grace is recognition of his presence in our lives. God wants us always to acknowledge and recognize his grace in our lives. We feel this grace through good sacramental life and prayers. The grace of God helps us not to give up or despair even in the face of our weaknesses and failures. The question we ask ourselves is: *How do we respond to God's grace in our lives?* The first reading and the gospel describe how people at different times and circumstances responded or appreciated the grace of God.

In the first reading, God through the prophet Ezekiel describes the rebellion attitudes of Israelites and how they revolted against him. It is a total rejection of God's grace. Similarly, in the gospel Jesus was rejected and looked at with contempt by his own people. The first reading is rejection through obstinacy and hardheartedness, and the gospel is rejection through contempt and negligence. Rejection, contempt and negligence are signs of lack of faith and trust in God. We pray that God will open our hearts to welcome and recognize the abundance of grace he has given us and make it effectual in our lives. Amen.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help" (Hebrews 4:15-16).