

July 16, 2017 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Good Morning! How are you?

Today, we've heard this gospel many times, and so you know I think I preached on it many times too, so I want to focus on the Second Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. And it begins by saying, "Brothers and sisters: I consider the sufferings of the present time as nothing compared to the glory that revealed for us." So, I think we can deal with this easily in our own lives. Because often we all, and if haven't today, time will come where we all have suffering in our lives. And if not in our lives, in the people around us lives, or our country's life, or somewhere there is always suffering going on. That's a given, right? We all have suffering, somewhere, going on. And so what Paul was saying is that you can't lose hope. Because what he's saying is compared to sufferings we have now, compared to the glory that's revealed is nothing. And the saints use to say this and reflect on this by saying, "What is this compared to eternity." What is this, the suffering, the struggle, we go with compared to eternity. When you think about 100 million years from now when we see the face of God and our time on earth is: ta! What is it compared to eternity? That still doesn't help sometimes, right? We're in the midst of the suffering. And so what the revelation is it's going to be the glory that's going to be revealed is who we are. And who are we in God? Beloved children. We are sons and daughters of our Father. And that's what should give us hope.

I remember a story about a boy who was on a ship. And the ship was going crazy; thunder, and lightening, terrible storms. They thought the ship was going to go down. And everybody screaming and yelling and carrying on. Except for this boy. He's just sitting there smiling, having a fine time. And they went up to him and says, "Why aren't you afraid? Don't you get it? The ship's going down. I don't know if we're going to make it." They say, "What's the matter? Why aren't you afraid?" And the boy says, "My dad's the captain." That he knew that his dad was going to get him through the storms. In the storms of our life we got to remember that our dad is the God of the Universe. He's the captain. He loves us more than we love ourselves. He's going to get us through it. It's going to be okay. Because there is

nothing that could ever make the Father stop embracing us. Stop holding us. And we got to stay focused there.

Remember another one of the saints once said, “Fear is an insult to my Father.” Fear is an insult to my Father. So, when the suffering comes and when we’re in the midst of struggles, we need to stay focused on our Father. And the Father who never lets us go. And if we focus on the Father, we’ll always have hope. In my own life when I’m going crazy and it happens every once in a while. I don’t know if you knew it. But when I’m going crazy I have that word that I go to again and again that instantly puts me into the presence of God, and it will give me peace. And that word for me is Abba! Abba! So I’m going crazy: Abba? I focus on the Father. Not on me. Not on fear. Not on my problems. Not on my anxiety. I focus on my Father. You and I, if we’re going to have hope in the midst of our struggles, we need to focus on our Father. And we go to our Father in prayer every day and He holds us and He’s says, “You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter.” That will get us through anything. But we need to stop and do it and focus on Abba, our Father, so we can find peace. Because the sufferings of the present time are nothing compared to the glory that is revealed for us. We are beloved children of our Father. Got it, get it, gonna live it? May each of you know His Love today and forever. Amen