

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 5 & 6, 2014

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Work to be Done

I hope you caught that first reading. It's a reading that speaks about banishing all weapons: the war horse (think tanks), the bow (think bomb), the chariot (think drone).

It speaks about the disappearance of all war.

It speaks about peace, a peace that stretches from sea to sea, to all the ends of the earth.

"Bring on this prophecy!" we cry.

But this prophecy is dependent on each of us. It's about our following our leader, Jesus Christ. Our leader is the King who is victorious without weapons or force. Who comes meekly on a donkey, a young, inexperienced donkey. So different than a war horse.

Christ continues to be victorious through us. But you might think, no, not through me. Ridiculous! I am no match for drones, bombs, threats of war, deportations, world hunger, trafficking, and poverty. I am no match for my own little world, my ornery boss, ...that bully in school, ...I don't know what to do about my own distant relative or how to manage my meager resources.

But that's what was thought of Jesus, sitting on the young donkey. Ridiculous!

Once I heard a person remark: "If Jesus can ride a donkey into Jerusalem he can ride this ass wherever he directs me." And He will direct us because, just as Paul reminded the Christians in Rome, we have Christ's Spirit within us,

Did you hear Jesus in today's Gospel thanking God for revealing his ways to the "little ones?" Imagine that early crowd to whom Jesus was speaking: tax collectors, beggars, shepherds, lepers, prostitutes, poor people, forgiven people.

It's to the powerless that the word of God was entrusted. It's to them the message of change was entrusted. Jesus said that we should not expect too much from the rulers, the powerful one, their ego gets in the way.

Expect all from the "little ones," the simple ones, the ones without prestige.

Jesus, who was all powerful, healed some sick. So what? When there was a whole world of sickness?

Jesus raised 2 or 3 dead, not an entire cemetery.

He stilled a storm at sea but there were lots of tornadoes and hurricanes.

It is not Jesus way to intervene with grand feats of power and displays of might. But that is how he remained an example for us.

He wants us to use our modest possibilities of coming together, of sharing what we have, of forgiving one person at a time, of rebuilding our world one act of love at a time.

Don't say: "It's too little, it won't work." It's the only way that works!! Its Jesus' way. Yoke yourself to me and your burden will be light, says Jesus. Come to me, I will work beside you. I will make your burden light. I will give you rest when you need it.

Dorothy Day, that simple woman who rode a bus from Catholic Worker House to Catholic Worker House with nothing but bread and peanut butter said:

"People say what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time.

A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do. "