

26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR YEAR B 2021.
THE WORLD OF CUTTING OFF!

The ability to see is a great gift given to enable us to navigate our world. It is very hard for those who see to imagine the adaptation made by those without sight. Our readings today are all geared toward **insight** of our spiritual well-being as opposed to **physical sight**. We are called to open our eyes of faith beyond what the ordinary eye can perceive. In the first reading we meet these two characters from nowhere, teaching us about God's way of involving all people in His mission. They were given the spirit of God. The spirit of the Lord blows wherever it will no doubt. They were not enemies but became allies. Nowadays we have many **organizations, movements, and people** within our society and in this parish who are instrumental in **works of mercy, promoters of the sacredness of life, family life, dignity of sexuality, and pointers of moral wrong doings**. They may not be nuns, priests, bishops, or even Christians, but they stand for all these good works. Is not God using them as he used the two gentlemen Eldad and Medad? Is he not calling you to participate in all of this? You are all moved by that same Spirit. It is up to you to activate it. Jesus puts it very clearly in the Gospel, "***who is not against us is for us.***"

How do you promote the Gospel with **the talents, time, and treasure** the Lord has given you? The Holy spirit is within you. It might be **bound TO the church BUT NOT BOUND BY THE CHURCH**. It blows and moves wherever it wills. We are called to **cut off** the idea it's only the clerics who can perform wonders. Let us not limit the spirit but let us use it to ***renew the face of the world especially in our current challenging times.***

St. James in the second letter draws us to the social element of the Spirit dealing with Justice for all, especially the laborers ***who are under paid and overworked.*** The call is to cut ***off the injustice in society.*** Does

our **financial prosperity and natural talents add access to various resources to benefit and further the kingdom of God?** The issue should be **what are we doing for the Lord, not what the Lord can do for us.** We are called to **cut off** that which becomes an obstacle. Christ finally puts the last nail in the Gospel on temptations which leads us away from the kingdom of God. He puts it so dramatically that it is scaring all. If your **eye, ear, arm, leg, and other organs are** causing you to sin, **CUT THEM OFF!** He is warning not to toy with temptations, they are very addictive and very derailing. In our present-day society, there are so many things which are pulling us away from the Gospel, the **internet, social media, television, books, and pornographic materials.** Christ is telling us not to play with fire, it burns! He is telling us to distance from them. The other temptation warning us is the **scandal to others.** Those who perpetrate and those who **spread gossip are equally guilty and liable.** Gossip in the society is causing havoc, it is a very huge million-dollar industry, it has moved from the backyard fence right to the internet, TV, radio, and all social media. Imagine the damage it is causing to society. We must **cut off this industry today.** The call today is cutting it off **part by part, day by day.** We must cut off our **pride, egoism, lust, laziness, and anger.** We must die to our vices and live in virtue. If we succeed in **cutting off the unwanted elements, then heaven becomes a living reality here and now.**