

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 12th SUNDAY YEAR A-2023.

CALL TO COURAGEOUS WITNESSING-DO NOT BE AFRAID!

Prophet Jeremiah in our first reading (Jer.20:10-13) had the very unpopular job of warning Gods people.They were supposed to keep His covenant(commandments)if God was to protect them from Babylonian.You can be assured they broke almost all,of them and never listened to the prophet, he became their enemy and they looked for his downfall by all means.

This is too happening in our present day society to followers of Christ in many places and countries whenever the people are cautioned of observing rules and regulations.

In our Gospel today(Mt.10:26-33) Jesus send the apostles after choosing them last Sunday he is giving them this unpopular job and mission of **witnessing and spreading the gospel of the kingdom of God**.He is telling them it is not going to be an easy task at all.

Challenges ,trials,hatred,insults and persecution's will be inevitable.

In the same note he is **encouraging** them they **must not be afraid at all**.

(10:28) especially to those who can kill the body only,the person to be afraid of is the one who can kill both body and soul.what a strong statement and an encouraging one for the suffering church in some countries in the world.He is telling us that he will take care in all these situations we find ourselves in while witnessing him.We must acknowledge him in this **hostile and violent** world he is telling his followers **three times not to be afraid at all**.Christ knew how it is going to be for his followers. Being a Christian's in Russian **is to say goodbye to any promotion or possessing a decent housing and other privileges accorded to the communists**.Christi is telling us to witness him **before men and everywhere on housetops,in light and darkness**.In that **indifferent,cruel,sceptical and cynical society** who are throwing the stones and rotten eggs in **protest of the gospel** that is is the mission we are called to undertake,In schools,factories,Banks,hospitals,streets we must give **pubic witness of christ love,truth and justice to all**.

We must champion the cause of the **poor,the homeless,exploited, refugees,the sacredness of life from conception to natural death.**we must talk about **abortions and contraceptions.**We can't leave out **same sex marriage which is destroying the sanctity of marriage and procreation,our moral values,commitment to truth and honesty,infidelity in our vocations.**

We are called to protect our youth from **addictive situations of alcoholism,drugs and abuse of modern technology in form of pornography.**(if you think you will be popular with the society mentioning these, you better think twice you are the Jeremiah of today)."*my job seems to go round picking up insults and corpses*" this was a statement by Archbishop Oscar Romeo of **El Salvador** who spoke publicly and strongly on the violation of human rights and crimes committed by political ruling party.He was gunned down as he was saying mass in 1980.How many people are ready to stand against what is happening in some countries,Most of the religious leaders are compromised and are allowing these the so called rulers to use the churches as flat forms to further their political aspirations.This must stop.

These are the **modern persecution the church and the followers of Christ are facing** in the world today. The society may not use instruments of torture as it might be in physical persecution of the body but all sorts of tricks are used to drive the point home through,**social media,tvs,music,entertainments,fashions,novels movies all these are systematically destroying souls without touching the body!**

These are very powerful tools the godless society is using.

Our lord is telling you today **DO NOT BE AFRAID!**