

## **FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY YEAR-B-2024**

### **THE WORLD OF THE DEAF AND MUTE:**

Disability is a great challenge in some communities especially in so called the third world. In some societies once born with disability of any kind physical, mental or Down syndrome, is considered as **bad omen or curse** one becomes an outcast in the society hence the person would suffer so much due to unacceptable by family members and the society. Such person becomes, **vulnerable, stressed, distressed, neglected hence traumatized**. In some Diocese in Kenya, the church has taken a positive initiative **by rescuing such people, taking care of them, empowering them with education and educating the society** over the duty and responsibility of accepting such people as part of the society.

The mission and vision are so clear in first reading prophet Isaiah message **of hope (Isa.35:4-4)** and encouragement to God's people in captivity **\*be strong, fear not here is your God he comes to save you. His salvation is expressed in terms of healing the blind, the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed, lame will leap and the tongue of of the dumb will sing\*** it prepares us for the gospel (Mk.7:31-37) where Jesus **heals a man who was deaf mute**. Jesus is entering into the isolated world of the deaf with **compassion and care**. His mission is very well explained when he said to John's disciples, **go and say what you see, the blind can see, the lame can walk, the deaf can hear and the gospel is preached to the poor**. Is this not taking care of the those challenged in the society, is this not our role as followers of

Christ in this present age in our world. What are we doing about them?

St. James letter (Jam. 2:1-5) gives us the way forward **that we need to treat and appreciate** all people the same, regardless of their status, political, religious, cultural background and affiliations. They are all sons and daughters of God. There shouldn't be **no discrimination, favoritism or prejudice** all should be accorded the same respect and we shouldn't be quick in judging by appearance.

We are called to seek the gift of **sight, hearing, and speech** which are very powerful tools to put our suffering society into order. We need to see among other people what Jesus saw and take initiative.

We need the gift of speech to tell of **justice and fairness just terms in business, employment, to speak of corruptions, and unjust politics in the world.** We are called to **see, hear and speak** for the people the society disregards and ignores we must speak for those who are **emotionally troubled and burden by disability and stress of our time. This is our mission today not tomorrow.**

The greatest tragedy in the society is **not to be born, deaf, dumb or blind but -To have ears and refuse to hear, to have eyes and refuse to see, to have tongue and refuse to speak.** We all need that **healing touch of Jesus that we may be receptive to the needs of others hear and proclaim the word in our time.**