

## **FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR-B-2024:**

### **THE WORLD OF CUTTING OFF:**

The ability to see is a great gift given to us by God to enable us navigate our world. There are so many things we have but take for granted like gift of sight, hearing, smelling, and good healthy. We lose one and we know how lucky we were.

Our readings today are geared towards **insight as opposed to physical sight**. We are called to open our **eyes of faith beyond what an ordinary eye can perceive**. Our First reading (Num. 11:25-29) is inviting us to be **inclusive not exclusive or limited** in acknowledging the gifts of other people. The two characters mentioned here though not part of the selected few 72 elders who shared the **spirit with Moses**, wherever they were at the tent, the spirit descended on them and they prophesied. What a wonderful inclusion in the field! Don't we have wonderful people in our society who does so much good in the world yet they may not be Christians? They have the spirit of God and they are not enemies they are Allies. We have so many people like those two. Many **Organization, movement, charities, family life, prolife promoters, dignity of sexuality and pointers of moral wrong doings**. They may not be **Bishops, priests and even nuns yet they participate** fully in works of mercy and evangelization. This work is not limited to the clergy and

religious hence inclusive to all people of God. All have a mission to undertake. He is calling us to participate. All are moved by that same spirit of God which blows wherever it wants and wherever it is invited. It is up to you to **activate**.

In the gospel (Mk. 9:38-43, 47-48) Jesus puts it very clearly **who is not against us is for us hence all are all promoters of the gospel**. The issue here is how do we do it by our **talents, time and treasure given to us by God**. The Holy Spirit is within you not necessarily bound by the church it blows wherever it will. We are all called to cut off the idea it is only the religious called to perform wonders let's not limit the spirit to that direction, it is blowing wherever it will and allowed. Let us use the spirit to **change the face of the world**. We are the agents in our time in spite of the challenges we encounter. St. James is inviting us to social element of the spirit especially injustices done to laborers who are **underpaid and overworked, corruptions and selfishness by few individuals at the cost of others even in the church**. The call of **cutting off of such injustices is seen**. Does our **financial prosperity, natural talents or various resources** benefit and further the kingdom of God or they block. What you are doing for the Lord is what matters.

Finally Christ is putting the last nail in the gospel which is very scaring on the temptation which leads us away from

the kingdom of heaven, if your **eye, ear, arm, leg or any other organ is causing you to sin, CUT THEM OFF!** *I wonder if we take this literally, many of us will be without so many vital organs missing! He is rather cautioning us of the dangers of temptations which are very addictive and can derail us in our present day society.* He telling us if the modern technology is affecting us we should not let it control our destiny, **if internet is causing us to sin, get blocking device, if CD is causing you to sin, throw it away, if friendship or relationship is causing you to sin, distance yourself from them.** Playing with temptations is like playing with fire. Christ is too warning us of scandal and those who spread them, Gossip and character assassination are all equally guilty and liable.

The call today is **cutting off** anything which can be an obstacle to reach the reality of kingdom of heaven like **pride, egoism, lust, laziness and anger part by part until nothing is left except Grace and spirit, through this then,** heaven becomes a reality for us here and now.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU NEED TO CUT OFF!**