

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07/04/21

“Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you.”

Many people in the Church have become hostile and even obstinate of heart toward traditional Catholicism in recent years and even more so over the past five to seven years.

Even high ranking members of the clergy have become quite critical of traditional priests and lay-faithful in recent years calling them rigid and often accusing them of having deep unresolved personal issues.

Well, I’ve had my dealings with rigid priests and lay people on the progressive non-traditional side of the Church as well so I do not believe that traditionalists control the market on rigidity.

Many people have deep personal issues. It’s called concupiscence. It’s our tendency toward sin. Sins like rebelliousness, obstinacy and, yes, even rigidity.

Sin is disordered because it is not ordered to God – every sin is ultimately a rebellion against God’s plan.

When sin becomes a normal part of our lives conversion becomes more and more difficult and consequently resolving any deep issues becomes less and less likely.

Unresolved personal sins can bring about a state of obstinacy which can certainly lead to rigidity on both sides of the spectrum.

That's why everyone needs to be in a constant state of conversion.

Even Saint Paul in the second reading today lamented the thorn in his side. He even begged our Lord to remove it but Jesus responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

Saint Paul learned to accept his weakness for the sake of Christ.

However, this is not to say that he somehow became complacent in his sin and neither can we.

Human weakness which can easily lead to sin is a part of life. It's only a problem if we become complacent in it.

It must be confessed so that the Lord Himself can resolve it. He's the only one who can save us.

As Catholics this requires going to a priest. We can't just confess our sins privately to God.

All of this is part of our Traditional Faith. It represents the wisdom of the ages.

In the gospel today, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and those who heard him were astonished at his wisdom and wondered where he had acquired such gifts.

And then something curious happened. Remembering that he was a local carpenter, the son of Mary, they looked upon him with scorn and they took offense at him.

His own people from his hometown rejected him. Consequently, he was not able to perform any mighty deeds there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith.

As Catholics we are members of His household but if we selectively reject the teachings of the Catholic Church then Jesus will not be able to perform any mighty deeds for us either.

Of course the mightiest deed of all is our full conversion to Jesus Christ and His Church and a good Sacramental Confession is the first big step in this direction.

When Jesus first came he was sent to the Israelites, rebels who had rebelled against God; Hard of face and obstinate of heart.

When he returns again let's make sure that we are not among the rebellious. And regular confession is the best defense against a hardened heart.