

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday ordinary B

St. Paul says “when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 2:10)

We are basically people with limitations, our knowledge is limited, our abilities are limited, our virtues are limited. No man or woman is absolutely supreme. Our nature is touched by sin and therefore, we all have defects, we forget our limitations and begin to behave and boast about ourselves, as if we are God almighty and immortal.

In the first reading people of Israel had forgotten God and they were not being faithful to God. They are living sinful life. God spoke through prophet Ezekiel. God’s fidelity abides forever in spite of man’s infidelity and disobedience. Though God warned the prophet Ezekiel that he would meet with opposition and failures. He had to preach to the people. And the prophet does it faithfully because it is God’s will. God shows of his love and power to his people in different ways. God reveals of his love in the hands of Jesus.

Jesus of Nazareth reveals His being, His nature, His love for us. In him God’s hands are seen; hands which cured, consoled, gave new life, hands which gave of himself in the form of bread and wine, hands which were pierced for us, which stretched out on the cross, to embrace the whole of humanity.

In Munster Germany, there is a crucifix which was broken during the war and Jesus lost his hands on the top of the cross. It is written, I have no hands give me yours! Yes, today God wants our hands.

We are the body of Christ, our hands must point towards Jesus, whose life was a living sacrifice of love for each one of us. The gospel exhorts us to accept Christ, who accepted us, to love Christ who loved us and stretched out His hands to save us.

In the Gospel, Jesus faced a severe testing when he returned to his home town. He returned not simply as the carpenter son but now as a rabbi with disciples. The people of Nazareth took offence at him and refused to listen to what he had to say, they despised of his preaching because he was a working man.

A carpenter, a mere layman and they despised him because of his family. They would not understand and accept Jesus that is the messiah and son of God. Jesus comforts their closed minds and prejudices which prevent God's grace from touching them. Very often we have issues with people regarding their background, past or even capabilities and thus we are unable to experience God's blessings through them. Some times when we do good things people may not recognize you, appreciate you. They are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. Let us check also ourselves. How often do we discount God's agents through prejudice? How often do we fail to see God's image in them because of our own hard heartedness? We must realize that God's power is always available to transform even the most unlikely people.

Let us ask Jesus to give us graces to serve him and love him by doing good works in our lives and having faith in God and to become faithful servants of God.