

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 02-06-2022

There is one common theme that runs through all three readings this weekend and that is a profound sense of unworthiness.

In the first reading Isaiah said, “Woe to me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips.”

And then in the second reading St. Paul referred to himself as, “The least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle...”

Finally in the gospel after that remarkable catch of fish St. Peter, fell to his knees and cried out, “Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man.”

But the Lord called all three of them anyway and made them worthy because they couldn't have become worthy under their own power and neither can we.

The angel touched the lips of Isaiah with a hot ember and declared that his wickedness was removed and purged him of his sins...for the sole purpose of making him worthy of his calling.

Only then did the voice of the Lord cry out saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” Then Isaiah responded, Here I am, Lord, send me!

In a way this is a glimpse into what happens at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when we are made witnesses to our Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

The Mass is intended to touch us in a deeply personal way so that we too can respond in our time to God's call for us in spite of our own unworthiness.

As the sanctuary fills with the sweet fragrance of incense we cry out with the seraphim, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

And then after the consecration we will say, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Today, our lips will not just be touched by a hot ember taken with tongs from an altar but we will receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ himself from his altar of sacrifice.

But in order to really experience the full effects of this Sacrament we need to cultivate a profound sense of humility in our lives.

No one is worthy of Christ, no one is worthy to receive the bread of Life, and no one is worthy of eternal life but Jesus wants to make us worthy nonetheless.

Today, let's humbly bow our heads in profound gratitude, recognizing our own unworthiness, and thank our Lord for his sacrifice that alone has the potential to make us worthy and let's be transformed by his grace so that we can follow him where ever he may lead.