

AUGUST 8, 2019
Memorial of St. Dominic, Priest
Mt. 16: 13-23

KEEP TRYING TO FIND AND FOLLOW GOD'S WAY

Today we are celebrating the Memorial of St. Dominic de Guzman, Priest and Founder of the Order of Preachers or widely known as Dominican Fathers and Brothers. Saint Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain in 1170. His parents were members of the Spanish nobility and related to the ruling family. His father was Felix Guzman and was the royal warden of the village. His mother, Bl. Joan of Aza, was a holy woman in her own right. In 1191, a famine left many people desolate and homeless across Spain and he sold everything he had, including his furniture and clothes and bought food for the poor. When he sold his manuscripts, required for study, he replied, "Would you have me study from these dead skins when people are dying of hunger?" St. Dominic recognized Jesus Christ on these people who needs care, love and compassion.

In our gospel for today, we heard that on the first part of the Gospel, Peter declared in front of other disciples that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God but on the second part Peter rebuke the intended mission of Jesus, that is to undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. What a contrasting declaration of Peter.

My sisters and brothers, we are all human being who have contrasting attitudes and personalities. Likewise, Peter was complex, in whom the wheat and weeds were mixed. Despite of his failings, Peter was appointed by Jesus as the rock, in Aramaic, Cephas, in Latin, Petrus, the central point of the new community he came to form.

We have our failings, our weaknesses, our disappointments, but the Lord keeps faith in us because He knew His own creation. Our own shortcomings can lead us to Him and as St. Paul always reminds us in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong...."

My sisters and brothers, Jesus Christ works powerfully in and through imperfect human beings. There is only one thing that He asks of us: keep trying to find and follow God's way. So, let us ask the intercession of St. Dominic that we may follow the Lord every day of our lives and not be discouraged even along the way, we failed, we were unsuccessful and fall. He will always love us because He is merciful and compassionate. God loves us so much! Do your part, God will take the rest.