

JULY 10, 2021  
Saturday of the 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time  
Matthew 10: 24-33

“DO NOT FEAR.”

After the attempted assassination of St. Pope John Paul II, he visited Mehmet Ali Agca in the prison and he personally pardoned the one who shot him. The Pope said ‘providence led things their own way.’ My brothers and sisters, forgiveness is the way of God and when we forgive, we are walking in the path of God.

The brothers of Joseph in our First Reading were fearful of what will happen to them after their father Jacob died. They were thinking that Joseph will cut them off, could lose their lives and revenge will be on them because of what they did to Joseph, who had a power over them. But Joseph taught his brothers what is the key factor in achieving unity and love for siblings, that is, forgiveness. “Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.”<sup>1</sup> That forgiveness and love wipe away their fears and their guide to pass over to their generation to generations. Indeed, forgiveness, compassion and love must be proclaimed from the rooftops and tell in the light. By that way we acknowledged Jesus as our Master and He will acknowledge us before His Father in heaven.

Also, three times Jesus said in our gospel today ‘Do not fear or be not afraid.’ Even amidst persecutions, famine and difficulties, Jesus is always with His disciples. They are

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 50: 19-21 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

always in God's hands and will take care of them because "you are of more value than many sparrows."<sup>2</sup>

My brothers and sisters, "Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body. Our real life our eternal life is safe. Every martyr has accepted this in concentration camps, under police questioning, in torture, in prison cells and on the way to the execution. If we declare ourselves for Him before men, He will declare that we belong to Him before the Father. To be persecuted is carrying our Cross after Him. It is imitation of Christ. By bearing our Cross we share in the redemption of the world. It is Christ who identifies Himself with every one of His messengers."<sup>3</sup> He will always be with us. So, the challenge for us today: forgive from the heart, love wholeheartedly and proclaim that you are disciples of Christ willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom, our destination, the place of eternal life.

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 10: 31 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

<sup>3</sup> [www.stories4homilies.co](http://www.stories4homilies.co)