

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 4th 2021.

Title: The title of our reflection together this morning is: THE PROPHET spelt PROPHET not PROFIT spelt PROFIT... The prophet is mentioned in all 72 books of the bible.

The role prophet may be defined as: The person, --- man or woman--- who speaks forth to the people on behalf of God.

In today's terms when we say she or he is a prophet--- we often see that person;--“As one who can foretell the future.”--- That is an extremely narrow understanding of the role of the Prophet....” ALWAYS THE TRUE PROPHET IS GOD'S MOUTHPIECE”.

CENTER

The PROPHET is THE MORAL DOCTOR---My doctor does not primarily tell me the future. She or he does tell me the truth that has a future. ---“JOHN KEEP ON SMOKING AND X WILL HAPPEN TO YOU”. ---In the same way the prophet is the “DIAGNOSTICIAN of the nation's SOUL.---”As we will say together again in the creed , in a few moments ...” HE HAS SPOKEN to us THROUGH THE PROPHETS ...” .

The true prophet is never popular because they criticize things the way they are, because his /her mission is to speak the truth despite being surrounded by apathy and resistance. St

Paul tells us in today's second reading,--- I do not have to be perfect to be an instrument of Christ.

All these facts about a PROPHET'S life are relevant to us as a CHURCH... as a PARISH... TO ME because I am called to speak and live God's word in the world around me .

How about if I am not successful ... like EZEKIEL in today's first reading Some people say that after 2000 years, the whole world should be CATHOLIC. ... "THE INTERNET SEEMS TO SPREAD FASTER THAN THE GOSPEL"...

But the INTERNET DOES NOT REQUIRE A CHANGE OF HEART AND LIFE --- FURTHERMORE, ---the preaching of the GOSPEL is never finished .--- Like PARENTING --- it starts all over again with the birth of each baby .

CONCLUSION

Like the Prophet Ezekiel in today's first reading I am not called by God to be popular OR... like St. Paul today,... I am not called by God to be PROBLEM - FREE OR... like the Lord himself in today's Gospel --- I am not called by GOD to be accepted by those... NEAREST TO ME .

But I am called by God TO BE FAITHFUL. I MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE. BUT I CAN BE FAITHFUL.

AMEN.

