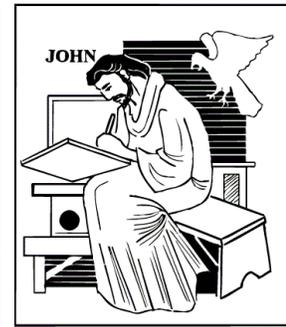
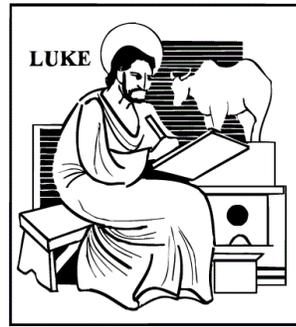
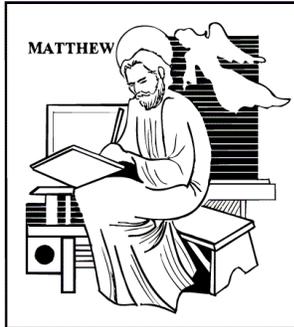


Breaking Open the Word



September 27, 2015 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 137 Gospel [Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48](#)

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

Spiritual Reflection: Bob Carey is a professional photographer. Nine years ago, his wife, Linda, was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was the beginning of a difficult time for the couple. To bring a little laughter into their lives, Bob began what he calls the "Tutu Project." The big, burly photographer travels around the country and takes pictures of himself wearing nothing but a pink ballerina's tutu. The pictures feature Carey in parking garages, in a field surrounded by cattle, hanging from a casino's blue neon palm tree, in the middle of an empty New York subway station, jumping along the beach. Most of the photos are hysterical - but some are whimsical and, in their own way, beautiful and touching. They all communicate a husband's love for his wife and his own way to cope through his unique sense of humor, art and beauty. God sometimes calls us to love in a radical way. What prevents us from answering that call?

Spiritual Questions:

1. What ways have you shown somebody love that others may consider crazy?
2. How does one's ego get in the way of loving?
3. What is more important to you: What others think of you or seizing the moment to love even if it makes you look crazy?
4. What one thing can you do today to make someone feel love?
5. How is Jesus dying on the cross weirder than a man dressing up in a tutu?