



## Breaking Open the Word

### February 5, 2012 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

#### **Opening Prayer:** AN ACT OF ABANDONMENT (By Saint Francis De Sales)

O my God, I thank you and I praise you for accomplishing your holy and all-lovable will without any regard for mine. With my whole heart, in spite of my heart, do I receive this cross I feared so much! It is the cross of your choice, the cross of your love. I venerate it; there is nothing in the world that could keep me from accepting this cross since it is your divine will. I keep it with gratitude and with joy, as I do everything that comes from your hand; and I shall strive to carry it with all the respect and all the affection which your works of salvation deserve. Amen.

#### **Connecting Liturgy to our Lives:**

- Paul argues with his community over their responsibility to support his preaching ministry. We are called to be good stewards of the resources God has given us and included in that is our responsibility to support the ministry of the Gospel. It is thus appropriate that we focus our attention on how the Church calls us to Stewardship.
- The first reading and the Gospel point to the truth that God does have compassion on those of us who are sick and in need of healing.
- The Catholic tradition has set aside a special sacrament called the anointing of the sick to bring Christ's ongoing compassion for the sick into the present. Through this sacrament we pray for healing. Through the perspective of faith all are healed but not all are cured.

*May the Lord be in our hearts as we read a reading from this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word?*

#### **Readings for this Sunday:**

First Reading: Job 7:1–4, 6–7 (Night of Anguish)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16–19,22–23 (Announce!)

#### **Gospel: Mark 1:29–39 (Send Me)**

#### **Gospel Reflection:**

- What is this Gospel calling you to do? In what way does it challenge you to more fully live the sacrificial life Jesus Christ lived and invites us to live as well?
- Jesus was a courageous servant of God. He did not care whose apple cart he overturned when it came to ministering to God's people. How would you respond if God asked you to be as courageous and reach out to someone and offer God's love in spite of public protest and outrage? How might that be an issue today?

#### **Bringing the Gospel into Your Family:**

- If you don't have a place in your home where you gather as a family to pray, this gospel may give you the incentive to establish one. Just a small table with a Bible on it will do. Allow all the members of your family to participate in its preparation by adding items that help everyone feel connected with the area. Try to establish a family ritual of prayer—perhaps before meals and at bedtime, when you gather in this area to pray together. This is a good opportunity to teach children traditional prayers, but it is also a place where they may speak from their hearts with petitions, praise, and thanksgiving.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Prayer of Pope Clement XI

Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust. I love you: let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow. I worship you as my first beginning. I long for you as my last end. I praise you as my constant helper. And I call you as my loving protector. I want to do what you ask of me: In the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it. Let me love you Lord as my God. And see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world. A Christian called to respect and love all those lives I touch.