

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Azariah (also known as Abednego) prayed these words while engulfed in the flames of the fiery furnace: “We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader” (Daniel 3:38). The Hebrews relied not on themselves or their own strength but on the Lord God. Authority figures are necessary in any society. Yet, as human beings, we struggle with our own egos to accept that someone can call us to accountability. We actually call ourselves to accountability at the beginning of Mass with the Penitential Act: “I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.” Prophets were needed to assist the people to examine their consciences and move them to repentance and return to the Lord God. Ezekiel, as “the spirit entered” him, was sent as a prophet to speak the hard truth to the Israelites, “a rebellious house”. Jesus is Priest, Prophet and King, who continues to call us who, through concupiscence, struggle with rebellion since the Fall of Adam and Eve. May today’s words not scandalize us but see that God, out of love for us, sends us prophets to lead us back to Him. It is Jesus Himself who came to defeat our sin of rebellion and lead us to the Father. “Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.” This humble petition will conclude with the words of the priest: “May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.” “Amen.” Thank God for prophets who lead us back to God so that we can experience His abundant mercy!

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*

