

Call to Worship – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sister Pat Torre, DW Pastoral Associate – Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT

Our readings today show us what it means to be a friend of God and prophet, to follow Christ to the Cross and to find redemption in the suffering we encounter.

In the first reading the prophet Jeremiah has had it with being a friend of God. He has been mocked and feels duped by God and vows not to speak to or of God again. BUT then there is a fire burning in his heart – for the One who gives meaning to his life.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans encourages the people to offer their bodies as living sacrifices to allow their minds and hearts to be transformed by God's love.

In the gospel from Matthew, Jesus issues this invitation: if you want to follow me, deny yourself, stop putting yourself first, then pick up your cross and follow me. Any suffering then becomes redemptive because it is connected to the suffering of Christ who gave his life for all of us, and who continues to be with us in our suffering.

Picking up our cross is about being a faithful follower of the One who continues to call us into the Mystery of transforming love.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist let us pray that we may be faithful – filled disciples of Christ, proclaiming God's fiery love with our very lives.