

31st Sunday Ordinary Time - Year A
Practice what you preach

- Today's readings are a real challenge for us – especially if you're a priest
 - In Malachi the Lord condemns the Levitical priesthood for not being faithful
 - In fact, He actually curses the priests, condemns them for not being faithful
 - In the Gospel Jesus condemns the Pharisee and Sadducee for being hypocritical
 - He warns the people to listen to what they say, but not what they do
 - Now then, in our time we've seen more than enough scandal in the priesthood
 - Sex abuse scandal among the priests, the bishops protecting abusers
 - People have left the church, priests are the butt of jokes by comedians
- We acknowledge the problems in the priesthood, & the scandal of the Bishops
- We can choose to leave the Church and complain about it
- **OR we can rejoice in all the faithful priests we still have**
- I choose to rejoice because – the corruption has been exposed & faithful priests remain
- Here is a little pearl about the priesthood I want you to consider:
- A few weeks ago I baptized 2 babies
 - At our Baptism ALL OF US are anointed Priest, Prophet, King.
 - ALL OF US share in the priesthood
 - ALL OF US are Church – Priest & Laity together are Church
 - Deacon, Priest, Bishop, Pope, Laity TOGETHER are the People of God – CHURCH
 - We all share in the responsibility Jesus lays on the Pharisee
 - **Practice what we preach**
 - All of us here are in positions where how we live influences others
 - At home - Parents Husbands Wives – our kids are watching you
 - At work - Managers – our employees are watching you
 - At school – Teachers – your students are watching you
 - Children – your friends are watching you
 - Our example of what we DO says much more than what we say
 - Remember Cat in the cradle – boy sings “I want to be like him” Dad
 - Our children, our neighbors, our employees, our friends should all be saying that about us –
 - **Because** of the way we're living our faith.