

13th Sunday Ordinary Time C

- How many kids here today ever not do your homework
 - Listen to some of these
 - Making excuses is not new – we all make excuses -
 - To explain wrongs we do (sin)
 - To explain the good we don't do
- Today's readings are about following God's call
 - Watch all the excuses that're given
 - Elisha "wait till I say goodbye to my parents
 - JC is on His way to Jerusalem and meets 3 men
 - Wait till I bury my father
 - Wait till I say goodbye
 - I want to follow You Lord – but just wait until - - -
- Excuses – for not living our faith as we know we should
 - For sins we do & For good left undone
 - And Jesus continues on His journey to Jerusalem – to the cross
 - On the way He is still looking for followers
 - Still telling people to proclaim Kingdom of God
 - Still doing the will of His Father
- I know a man who was ordained and went to the poorest Africa
 - He'd walk thru the bush, village to village to preach
 - One day he came home after days in the bush to hear Yellow Fever was
 - Despite being dog tired he got the holy oils for Sacr. Of Sick and went
 - Eventually he contracted the fever and died – 36yo – Commitment!
 - WE are called to go to the bush too
 - In a different way – bush of jobs, school, home – living our faith there
 - Right here, Right now – in this time and place
- Last week we had 3 murders in 24 hours in Nassau
 - We have had 44 murders this year
 - 450 criminal cases pending – 130 on bail for murder-related offences
 - What does this say about God calling us – right here, right now – in this time and place?
- We are made in the image and likeness of God
 - God is purity, free from sin, a stranger to all that is evil
 - If we remain free from sin, if our mind is kept free from evil, we reflect image and likeness of God that we are
 - Take a piece of iron as an example
 - It may be black and covered in rust, but if scraped with whetstone
 - It will shine brilliantly and reflect the sun
 - SO IT IS WITH US
 - Once we remove from our hearts the coating of filth formed by sin
 - We regain the image and likeness of God we're formed to be
 - That is the power of forgiveness and purity of heart
 - If I hold up a mirror to the sun
 - we see its radiance in the reflection just as truly as those who look at it directly
- Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, to our redemption
 - Now we draw closer to the 2nd coming, to New Jerusalem
 - Jesus calls us to be a new creation – to change our hearts of stone to hearts of flesh
 - To love one another – to love our enemies – to forgive

- THAT is how WE respond to God's call and proclaim the Kingdom of God
- Msgr Preston Moss' mother 'Son, you've set your hand to the plow, now leave it there'