

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for June 18, 2017

Convocation: The priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be meeting this week in convocation. I describe this as a priest convention. We will especially be talking about the importance of the sacraments and their celebration in pastoral regions. Please pray for the priests of the diocese, and for vocations to the priesthood.

Readings for next week: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33

Reflection: Jeremiah is caught between a people eager to destroy him and a God who has commissioned him to speak His word. It is an untenable situation. Each of us lives in the same web, caught between good and evil. God calls each and everyone of us to holiness, and yet we are betrayed by the temptations of our culture and friends, and by the desires that lurk within us. It seems hopeless to hope that we will ever be free of sin. Jeremiah cries out, "The Lord is with me". He sings the Lord's praises and places his trust in God's power. Jeremiah's life is no more perfect than our own. He is no more sinless than we are. Nevertheless his life is holy because he allows it to rest in God's hands. Ultimately, it is not our goodness, or even our faith, that saves us. It is God himself who saves us.

1. Recall a time when you were afraid. Describe how your fears were calmed.
2. Reflect upon the influence others have had on your actions and attitudes. Consider also the influence you have had on the actions and attitudes of others.

Prayer: There are times, Father, when I have been insulted. My greatest shame, however, is in the insults I have placed on others. Help me, Lord, to uphold the lives of others with the same love and respect with which you support me.