

In Genesis we read that all of us are made in the image of God.

And all of us are called to be prophetic through our Baptism as were the prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist in the readings, but possibly with a different mission.

In Dt. 3:16 we read, "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you, he will not fail you or forsake you."

There are so many ways to be prophetic.....and all of us are gifted and called by the Holy Spirit in different ways.

About 14 months ago there was a true story that circulated a bit on the internet about an assistant high school football coach by the name of Joe Kennedy.

He had developed a habit of praying on his knee on the 50 yard line after each game win or lose. He would pray in thanksgiving for the young men he coached and for the team's opponents.

He desired most of all that those young players would develop as men would have courage to be their best, learn to work together.

At first few noticed, then soon some players did and asked what he was up to. He explained.....

Soon a few asked to join him; he said they were free to do so. Soon more would join.

But the Bd. of Education became fearful of lawsuits. Ordered him to stop or be fired. He then complied the next game.

Yet it didn't sit right with this former marine, so the next game he decided be the example he wanted his young men to be, to show courage in the face of threats, to stand up for one's principles and freedom of religion even if it isn't popular.

So the next game after a tough loss, he knelt at the 50 yard line without asking anyone, and soon many of his players and even many of the opposing team and fans from the stands joined him in prayer, for the threat of losing his job had become public.

This made him a national sensation; members of congress, as did many other religious leaders applauded him.

However, the Satanic temple of Seattle Washington asked for equal time and the school board issued their last warning to not pray publically on public property.....

He stated he would not stop, he was then let go of his job as assistant coach of those young men on the football team.

The next game he urged the public to come and support the players and he was simply one of the fans in the stands, yet the players came to the fence line where coach stood to hug the man they called coach.

After the game Joe knelt down in front of the bleachers to pray for the young men, and soon was joined by a large crowd of fans and players who closed prayer together with a loud "Amen".

The history of Christianity is one of seemingly endless defeats that are transformed by God's grace into glory.

Christ died for our sins. And the apostles despaired.

But Jesus rose from the dead and those disciples and many of their followers soon would face persecution and death standing up for their faith with the utmost confidence as we all should.....

We fail Christ when we fail to witness to him in what we do or say when that opportunity presents itself.

Coach Kennedy knew what would happen when he stood up for his and our constitutional rights under the free expression clause found in the constitution.

His case is still being litigated in the court system, though he may have lost much in his career path, he truly gained a greater victory.

He was prophetic, an example of what means to be a Christian.

What might hold us back?

I would suggest it can be partly due to a lack of confidence in direction, a lack of knowledge, or a fear of rejection.

Yet Jesus tells us to “Be not afraid” more often than anything else in scripture.

We are told in Dt. and in the Gospels that He goes before us.

It is straight out of the Bible! We are just called to try.....

Some of us can overcome our fears by studying our faith through:

1. The great opportunity to learn about our faith through the “FORMED” program made available by the Diocese and our parish.
2. It is all available free on the internet just register yourself according to the instruction in our bulletins, on our website, or found on a table in the back of Church
3. I have found can be a true blessing to those of us that might or might not have limited resources, and it is easy to navigate.
4. Many programs are available on the teachings of the Church and why it teaches what it does.
5. It has a program providing the Sunday readings and guides to prepare for each Sunday Mass.
6. It has a program for explaining each of the sacraments and how to prepare ourselves and others for their reception. It is a great refresher course for all of us.
7. Several Bible studies are available for individuals or small groups
8. There are some children’s programs movies and books.
9. Great youth and adult programs for discussion and teaching.
Hollywood produced movies on the saints or our faith.
10. Multiple videos and cds to watch or listen to on conversion stories.

Additionally we at QP have ongoing Bible Study each tues or on Thurs

We have an RCIA program on Sunday mornings thru which we teach those who desire to study the Catholic faith and enter the Church or for those who just want to learn about their faith.

We also can learn much about our beautiful faith by reading the Queen's messenger.

We have Catholic radio at 89.5 fm or 910 am to learn from as well as on the EWTN TV station.

Most of us are not called to be an Isaiah or an OT prophet, but we all can be a Coach Joe Kennedy in what we do and by what we say in very subtle ways.....

Be Bold, be confident, and be Catholic and be Jesus to all, and be not afraid!

Amen!