

Homily – San Fernando Cathedral

At times, we experience an uneasiness, especially during times of transition, change, or chaos. There is so much confusion in our world. We are bombarded with words – in the newspapers television, the internet. It is difficult to sort out what is truly significant and what is mere curiosity. We struggle to learn the facts, to determine what the truth is when there is so much misinformation, opposing opinions, and outright lies. It is important for us to find out what really is going on – what the facts are, not mere opinions or conspiracy advocates.

As believers, we firmly hold that we are not on our own. A loving, caring God is with us at every moment of our lives. The risen Lord is in our midst. The Holy Spirit is always with us, within us – guiding us, leading us, accompanying us on our journey.

In the gospel Jesus tells the Twelve that they are to proclaim the gospel confidently and boldly. They are to continue Jesus' own mission and ministry. He reminds them how much God loves them; God even knows the number of the hairs of our heads! But Jesus also tells them: Do not fear. Do not be afraid. Why? Because the world often does not want to hear the truth of the word of God.

The prophet Jeremiah found that out. He was speaking on behalf of God, and people were laughing at him and persecuting him for this. In his humiliation, Jeremiah affirms his trust in God who sent him. In effect, Paul tells the Romans – and us – that we are to make a basic decision: (1) Follow the way of Adam and Eve, saying no to God, and experiencing death. Or (2) follow the way of the risen Lord Jesus and his blessed Mother, saying yes to God -- no matter what it costs us -- and receiving eternal life.

We live in difficult, challenging times. We are challenged to live a life of discipleship, faithful to the word of God. With God's mercy and compassion, Jesus' walking at our side, and the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we can face anything with courage, God-given strength, and unfailing hope. *Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe is with us always, as she promised St. Juan Diego and us. Dear Lady, Mother of God, be with us during our times of trial, difficulty, fear, anxiety during our earthly pilgrimage.