

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

September 3, 2017

The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9 + Romans 12:1-2 + Matthew 16:21-27

Reflection by: Sister Alice Uhl, OP



“Whoever wishes to come after me (Jesus), must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.”

Today's Gospel passage seems harsh for a Labor Day weekend. However, the passing of this weekend means, for many of us, the taking up again of commitments and obligations that were lessened during the summer months. Also the coming of September signals the beginning of the last four months of 2017 with its increased opportunities to form new relationships and/or deepen existing ones.

Perhaps the Gospel's invitation is to spend time thinking about how we relate to others and how to do it better:

- Are all my relationships current and positive? If not, why not?
- As a follower of Jesus, which relationships of mine does Jesus need to help me with?
- What bad habits (e.g., gossiping) of mine do I need to deny in speaking with others?
 - ✓ Is what I am saying the truth?
 - ✓ Is it kind?
 - ✓ Is it necessary?

As our summer ends and the last part of 2017 begins, may we renew our commitment to follow Jesus through the way we are with each other.

Happy Labor Day!