

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

September 8, 2019

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18b † Philemon 9-10, 12-17 † Luke 14: 25-33



Reflection by: Sister Honora Werner, OP

In “Oklahoma!” Ado Annie and Will Parker sing,
“With me it’s all er nuthin’!”
Jesus sings that tune, too!
Pick up your cross and follow me.
But you can’t do that if your arms are filled with other things—even good ones.

Oh, discipleship is difficult!
It’s cruciform.

Who can bear that cost?
Who can even know what God’s Plan is?
Why did God give us all these gifts
if we must leave them behind?
Why give us family, friends, talents and personal strengths
(like St. Paul’s gift of persuasion!)
if we must drop them to embrace our cross?

Who can know God’s Mind?
No one.

Except with the power of the Holy Spirit.
This Spirit graces us with the strength and courage
to drop the gifts and shoulder our cross.
Then, all those other good things are given to us once more.

Not for our own sake
but for us to use for others’ freedom.
For the care of the little ones, the voiceless ones,
for Earth Herself!