

OBSTACLES TO WITNESSING: TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021, WEEK 28, YEAR I.

ROMANS 1:16-25; PSALM 19; LUKE 11:37-41

Every Child of God has a specific mandate to witness to Jesus in the world. We are ambassadors of Jesus in the world.

Sadly, many of us find it so hard to stand for, testify or witness to Jesus when we find ourselves in certain circumstances. There are usually two reasons for this - shame and fear.

Shame:

We don't want to be mocked, ridiculed or jested and we don't want to be embarrassed. As such, we often keep our faith and testimony to ourselves, even when we can feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and so we end up wasting the opportunity that the Lord gives to us to witness to Him.

Perhaps, we could learn from Paul in today's First Reading. St. Paul, writing to the Romans, said he was not ashamed of the Good News. The Good News was not popular in Rome. Christians were few and mostly the poor of the people. The central message of the Good News is the crucified Christ, which definitely a typical Roman would have found ridiculous. Yet, Paul said: I am not ashamed of it because it is the power of God saving all who have faith.

Are you ashamed of your faith, of talking about Jesus, of praying where non believers are or praying with/for someone?

Are you ashamed to identify yourself as a Christian or Catholic?

Please read the warning of Jesus in Mark 8:38.

Fear:

Many times we are unable to witness to Jesus because we are afraid that we may fall out of favour with people or we may be attacked directly or otherwise.

Let us learn from Jesus today. Even though He was invited by a Pharisee, shame, fear or human respect didn't deter Him from speaking the truth to his host. Without politicizing the truth or patronising the man who invited Him, Jesus unequivocally pointed out his hypocrisy and where he and his colleagues needed to change.

Let us not allow shame and fear to cripple us from witnessing to the truth, to justice, to our faith, to the Good News; put simply, from witnessing to Jesus Christ.