

July 6, 2008
Sunday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...

When I think of a yoke, I picture a harness that keeps my head looking forward unable to turn backwards or to either side. This is an interesting picture in light of this gospel. Jesus was single-minded. His message was straightforward. That is the challenge I take from this gospel. I hear Jesus say to me: " Do the same. Be single-minded. Do not turn back or waver in your commitment to follow me. I will teach you all you need to know. And it won't be as hard as you think it might be. " It is an interesting journey to follow Jesus. We are called to leave all we know behind and live very differently. At a recent ordination ceremony that I attended, they sang a song shortly after the ordination ritual. The song is entitled, *Lord, When You Came to the Seashore* by Cesareo Gabarain. I was very moved by this song and the words seem to speak to me in light of this gospel. Each verse is followed by the refrain:

Lord, when you came to the seashore you weren't seeking the wise or the wealthy, but only asking that I might follow.

Lord, you knew what my boat carried: neither money nor weapons for fighting, but nets for fishing my daily labor.

Lord, have you need of my labor, hands for service, a heart made for loving, my arms for lifting the poor and broken?

Lord, send me where you would have me, to a village, or heart of the city; I will remember that you are with me.

(Refrain)

O Lord, in my eyes you were gazing, Kindly smiling, my name you were saying; All I treasured, I have left on the sand there; Close to you, I will find other seas.

If we take the words of Jesus in today's gospel seriously, we will have to find other seas. As I listened to these words, I knew that they are not meant just for the ordained to recite. They are meant for all of us who profess to believe in Jesus and desire to follow him as the disciples did so many years ago.