

August 7, 2008
Thursday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

Matthew 16:13-23

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. "

Every day life teaches us something about the God who loves us and created us and calls us to love and become love. Jesus' life mission was precisely about teaching us the truth about God and life. If we become disciples of Jesus, then we become the bearers of that message, our life continues the mission of Jesus. Because I believe this, it has become important to me to regularly reflect on my answer to Jesus' question: who do you say that I am? Today, I am most aware of Jesus as a rebel, the man who came to change the world and challenge the world to not only live differently, but also to see life differently. I see Jesus as a revolutionary, calling for radical change in the cultural norms and practices. This is not all of who Jesus is for me, but it is the part where I feel the invitation to grow in my understanding of what it means to be a Catholic and a Christian. What needs to be changed in our world today? What cultural norms and practices are incongruent with the message of Jesus? Where do I need to speak up about injustice?

The unique impression of Jesus upon mankind - whose name is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world - is proof of the subtle virtue of this infusion. Jesus belonged to the race of prophets. He saw with open eyes the mystery of the soul. One man was true to what is in you and me. He, as I think, is the only soul in history who has appreciated the worth of man.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Who do you say Jesus is?