

September 30, 2018 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Ordinary Time

Moses, when informed of Edad & Medad, who had not gone to the officially authorized with God's spirit yet were speaking prophetically, says, "Would that all were prophets." Jesus, when informed that someone else, not of his company, was expelling demons, says, "Do not stop him. Whoever is not against us is with us." Both Moses and Jesus recognized that the more of God's followers could be prophetic and drive out evil the better for all.

We are entrusted with passing on Christ's presence that we share today, and recognize our call to first of all be examples of faith to our children by the way we act and speak and interact with them and others. We are to be healers for our children AND for others. We are to do our best to drive evil out of our lives and challenge others to do the same in a prophetic way.

About a year ago, an episode of the daily comic strip, *For Better or Worse*, appeared. Six year old Lizzy has had a bad day at school. And she confides to her father:

"Daddy – why don't some kids get along with other kids? Sometimes, when you think someone's your friend, they're really not. Some kids do mean things for no reason. Kids fight over dumb stuff. They pick on each other. They don't share – and they say things about other kids that aren't true.

I can't wait until I'm grown up...grown-ups don't do things like that to each other."

Lizzy turns to walk away, leaving her dad with a stunned, sad expression on his face that says, *Oh Lizzy, if you only knew...*

The gospel challenges all of us adults to consider the values and faith we are modeling for our "little ones": what our public policies, our social and cultural institutions, our political and religious rhetoric reveal about the world we are handing on to them. Truth be told, sometimes we still act like the children Lizzy encountered at school. We are to recognize the holy within us, the "God with us" in our living day by day - to teach our children well without judgment, guiding them by our example, inspiring them with our generosity to change ourselves and our world. We are to speak the truth and face evil, name it and challenge it to drive it out.

James challenges the status quo of his time by looking at the disparity between rich and poor. Hoarding our gifts – like money – simply does not bring life. I've quoted him before, but this was what someone reported that Fr. Feldmann said about money. "Money is like manure. If you pile it all up, it stinks. If you spread it out, it brings new life." Everyone is capable of holy moments we can make happen when we pass on our lives, gifts and talents for the sake of others.

What does God want of us today? It's a good way to start our day, and ask ourselves about the holy moments we've passed on today with the gifts God has given us. God is good...all the time...let us strive to like God in our living and loving.