

Communion Reflection for July 16

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He answered, "I will be with you..."

In college, I took a course on the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. In it, we primarily discussed the books of Genesis and Exodus. When we came to the passage we read today for our first reading, my professor, a very saintly man, said this is a case where we see that God does not call the equipped – He equips those whom He calls.

In our first reading, God calls Moses to go back to Egypt to free His people from slavery in order that they might worship God in the land given to their ancestor Jacob. The cycle of readings in the Lectionary this year does not show us the following chapter in Exodus, in which Moses raises objections to God's call.

Moses first objects by saying that no one will believe that God appeared to him. In response, God says that He will work miracles on his behalf in the sight of Pharaoh. Moses further objects by saying that he is not a good speaker. God responds by telling him that his brother Aaron, will speak for him and act as his spokesman before Pharaoh. Finally, Moses begs God to send someone else! The Bible tells us that God got angry with Moses for refusing to do His will. Eventually, however, Moses agrees and returns to Egypt.

Moses rightly recognizes his unworthiness to be sent by God on this important mission. But he fails to trust in God's grace. For every objection Moses raises, God provides for his weakness. God does the same for all of us if we only trust in His plan, in His will for our lives. How often do we try to make excuses for not wanting to follow God's will, especially when he calls us to a difficult task? God has called all of us to various vocations and will pour out the graces necessary to fulfill the good works He has given us to complete.

As we prepare to receive our Lord today, let us ask God for the grace of greater trust in His will for our lives. Let us remember that, like Moses, God will always be with us in whatever He has called us to do.