

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018

No, I'm not going to talk about the second reading! Even though it's the most misinterpreted reading in all of Scripture.

I think many of us are still reeling from last week's revelations. I know I am. I'm still in the anger stage. I'm giving myself permission to be angry. I'm trying to figure out who I'm angry with--certainly, the perpetrators; most definitely, the system that allowed the abuse; and the ones who covered it up.

But I'm also trying to figure out what to do with my anger. I'm talking a lot to my spiritual director, and I'm praying a lot. All the while, I still have to celebrate Mass, meet with parents wanting their kids baptized, bury the dead, visit the sick, and cook chicken barbecue. Life keeps going; it doesn't stop just because we are having a crisis.

Consequently, it's somewhat helpful that the Scriptures tonight (for the most part) are about choosing. It's easy to follow Jesus when it's easy to follow Jesus, but what about when it's not easy? What about when our faith is tested? What do we do that day? Will we return to our former way of life? Will we no longer accompany him? Do you also want to leave?

I think mostly I answer the same as Peter, but there are days when I don't. It's what I do those days that matters most. I pity my poor spiritual

director those days. I have no problem with Jesus being the Holy One of God; it's some of the folks that work for him. If everyone were like Jesus, no problem--but shockingly, even I'm not like Jesus. So what to do?

Let's focus on the local resolution. If you see anyone (including me) doing anything that you think is inappropriate, you have to say something! We cannot continue with the status quo. The days when Father said jump and the people of God said how high are over! This is your Church! You will be the change; but you have to choose it!