

Second Hand Preacher

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 17, 2016

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

As many of you know, back in 2012 I had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS). It is a disease that affects the nervous system. The myelin or coating of the nerves is attacked and removed. The brain cannot talk to different parts of the body. As a result, one becomes temporarily paralyzed. At times I was awake, but trapped in my body. I could neither move nor communicate verbally. It was trying and I tried to sleep as much as possible. In my distress, I encountered Jesus. In spite of having to relearn pretty much everything, I know he delivered me into life. I got a new lease on life as my body slowly worked together to try and do God's will. So many people have gotten me to where I am today. They helped the members of my body work together in order to live life to its fullest.

This week St. Paul uses the analogy of the body to speak of the Church. From accounts, I have read the Christians in Corinth suffered from disunity. The rich did not mix well with the poor. The Greek failed to understand the Jew. They were not treating each other well and even discriminating against each other when they celebrated the Agape meal. This was a precursor to our Mass. In another place in this letter, Paul speaks of the words Jesus uses to celebrate the Last Supper. He wanted these Christians to model their meal after this. Paul had high hopes that the Christians in Corinth would work together.

The model of the body works well in our modern Church, as well. Each member of the Church has a role to perform. We all need to work together in order to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven right here on earth. It means treating each other with love and compassion. Sometimes we teach, sometime we listen, and at all times we love each other with the affection of brothers and sisters. We are one body in Christ and we do not stand alone.