

Second Hand Preacher

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 2, 2016

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

My first year of priesthood was a glorious one. Praying the sacrifice of the Mass, blessing people and objects, and all the other father-like duties that a spiritual father would do make for a busy life. It is a rather independent life that at times can be lonely. A priest needs to have a support system that helps him along the way.

St. Paul longs to be support for both Timothy and the rest of his leaders. Paul did the living symbol of the imposition of hands. Paul laid his hands on Timothy's head in order to pray that the Holy Spirit gives Timothy the help that he needs to face the daunting task of leadership in the young church. Paul wants Timothy to stir into the flame of the Holy Spirit meaning he is to be dependent on the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to work through him.

Paul wants strength for Timothy. He knows Timothy is not a coward, but there is much to fear when leading a community of believers. Love and self-control need to be the tools Timothy needs to use the strength that comes from God. The primary role that Timothy has is to spread the gospel. This is not a task for the faint of heart. It takes an open heart to use the strength necessary to spread the good news to those who most need it.

Today, we continue to spread the gospel. Some have hands imposed on them and they have an office of the Church to live out. Most still share the gospel in any way they can with the community of believers. All are called to be a light for the world given strength by God.