

# Second Hand Preacher

*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

July 9, 2017

**Romans 8:9, 11-13**

Does my faith make a difference in the way I live my life? When I was baptized, did this change how I was as a person? We hope that our faith life can make a difference in the choices we make. I believe we make choices in our everyday life that let people know what we believe. From what we purchase to how we treat people, all we stand for should revolve on our faith life. We should try to live life in the spirit as opposed to only trying to get ahead. We need to live life for others and try to do the next right thing. I believe my baptism calls me to this.

Becoming a Christian in the days of Paul was life changing. Some were able to live in secret, but there was always the threat of being found out. Christians were committed and many times they would die to defend their way of life. Last week our Gospel called us to be totally committed to Jesus. He wants us to choose him before everything. The Romans were able to risk their lives in order to bring the Gospel to life. Rome was the center of the modern world. The flesh was around them at every turn. Sex, greed, and power were part of life in the empire; yet the baptized wanted to live in the spirit. They wanted to step out of the ordinary and do the extraordinary. They lived the way of Jesus despite how it conflicted with what was happening around them. They were countercultural.

Are we countercultural? So much goes on with social media, news reports, and a more critical culture. Sometimes we are so busy trying not to offend anyone that we don't stand for anything. I'm not saying we should go around hurting people, but we should be able to express a truth that might not make us popular. We can love each other even when we don't agree with one another. We should be able to protect the dignity of someone with whom we disagree with. We should always grant and receive mercy.