

Second Hand Preacher

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 19, 2014

Not many people write letters any more. Sure we communicate, text, email, Facebook and Twitter seem to have replaced pen and paper. Are we better off? I suppose there may be more communication, but is it as meaningful? I love to receive handwritten letters, but I have to admit, I have super poor handwriting and I might be a bit lazy in that area. I have been starting to write a few notes and I do find this rewarding.

St. Paul was a letter writer and a very effective one at that. His letters project a big faith that our Church uses to live the Christian life. This week we have the beginning of the First Letter to the Christians in Thessalonica. Paul follows a similar pattern in the way he begins writing to a community. He usually mentions who he is with. This is helpful as this may be one of the only mentions of the faithful people that help Paul in his mission of spreading the faith to the Gentiles.

Paul is grateful for the Thessalonians and wishes them grace and peace from the one who is the center of Paul's life that one being Jesus Christ. He stresses the importance of prayer. Paul wants these Christians to realize they are not alone for they are blessed by the Holy Spirit. Paul shows why he is so important to a faith that is founded in Jesus.

Follow the example of St. Paul and show your gratitude in all of your communications. How can we go out of our way to encourage people? This is definitely something that should be genuine. I believe this should be done often. We need to do all we can to build up the body of Christ.