

**BE PROPHETS TO THE 21C!**

I don't know if you saw the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*? It came out 6 years ago. *An Inconvenient Truth* is about climate change and how our misuse of Nature is causing global warming, a disaster. This Truth is inconvenient because it challenges people to change their life-styles. It was a prophetic film. A prophet is not one who predicts the future but someone who speaks the truth, whether people want to hear it or not. Prophets are controversial often unwelcome even persecuted like Jesus to whom the words of 1<sup>st</sup>R can be applied: *I was like a trustful lamb led to the slaughterhouse... 'Let us cut him off from the land of the living.. that his name be quickly forgotten'*. Jesus Christ is the greatest Prophet of all: He is God the Son. Yet look what people did to Him, because he spoke the Truth about God, about life, about being human!

I'm really happy to be with you today: thank you for coming. I know this weekend most of you begin the Easter holidays: I hope you have a good time. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the events leading up to his death and resurrection. Despite being God the Son, there was a real hatred for Jesus and for what He taught. People misunderstood Him, and in today's Gospel you can sense a storm brewing: Who is this Man? *People could not agree about him*. Yet many were gripped by His words: deep down they knew He was speaking the Truth. Even the police said: *There has never been any one who has spoken like Him*. You and I are Christ's disciples. To be a disciple means to belong to Jesus, to be a student of His Word, to receive the Truth he teaches with love, faith, respect. Jesus speaks in our hearts. But if we want to be sure we've got it right, we also need to listen to the Word of God in the Bible and the Church's teaching. This is where people often go wrong. They say: *I believe this; I don't believe that*. No, a true disciple listens to Jesus, lives under His Word, is open to the Truth he teaches us in the Bible and the Church's teaching.

Over the last few weeks, I've been in the news because I've challenged people to listen again to Christ's teaching on marriage and family life. For some this is an inconvenient truth and I've had lots of criticism, even from fellow Catholics. Jesus never promised it would be easy to be His disciple, nor that the Catholic Church would be perfect: think of the parable of the wheat and the tares. For

Jesus came to call sinners, you and me, people willing to receive the Truth however inconvenient, yet aware that to welcome the Word of God takes a lifetime. We need courage. But that's why I'm excited, for soon you will be confirmed! Jesus needs you. Jesus needs you, yes, to love him in the Mass and to love him by caring for the poor and needy. But Jesus also needs you to be prophets - prophets to 21C. He needs you to speak the Truth about God, about life, about being human, however inconvenient.

*There has never been any one who has spoken like Him.* In this Mass, in which Jesus lays down his life for us on the altar, let us pray for ourselves, our families and our friends, especially as we look forward to receiving after Easter the Sacrament of Confirmation. May Jesus in that Sacrament make you brave. May he transform you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, may He turn you into fearless prophets: people able and willing to speak the Truth, however inconvenient, even if in union with Jesus Himself, you have to suffer.

Have a good day today, and thank you for listening!