**Homily** **for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Rev. Francis D. Kim*

        Freedom and peace, that’s the subject we celebrated last week the 4th of July, the independence of America. Freedom is one of the most important subjects for human expectations and dreams. We believe that only our Savior, Jesus Christ, can give us real freedom and peace.

        Jesus meet people’s need and gave them new faith and hope in God’s saving help. The Lord grants freedom to all who turn to Him with trust. Whenever the Gospel is proclaimed, real freedom and eternal peace are given to those who respond with faith. This is a really good news.

        But, because of human nature, we are not free. In today’s three readings, we confront human sinful nature: pride, jealousy, prejudice, disobedience, and disbelief. At the same time, today’s readings echo the Christian virtues that give us faith, hope, and love: obedience, trust, openness, and humility.

        In the Gospel, there must have been a sadness in Jesus as He is rejected in His hometown. Beside, the people were so upset and angry with Him, so they wanted to kill Him. Surely, the people from the hometown of Jesus had heard of the great miracles He was performing throughout the country.

        But, the townspeople defended their reaction to Jesus by saying that they knew all about Him. They knew His mother and other members of His family. They knew His occupation to be that of a carpenter, that as far as they knew, He had never studied in school.
It wasn’t understandable to them that He could teach with such confidence and authority.

        For many people, especially for the Jews, Jesus did not fit their ideal. People had their own expectations about Messiah. How could this man, who ate with tax collectors and sinners, who was wandering carpenter from small town, be the Messiah?

        People didn’t want to change their own ways of thinking. They didn’t want to open their minds to something new and something different. It is very difficult for people to accept to something new, to something unexpected. In fact, we often do not see something we do not expect to see. So, sometimes, we are spiritually blind.
        Jesus was breaking out beyond pride, jealousy, prejudice, disobedience, and disbelief. These human natures are really heavy burden to all people. So, Jesus wanted to set them free. But, people couldn’t understand Him. They didn’t want to accept Him.

        Today, many people are lost. Jesus wants to set us free. We are called to the freedom and eternal peace. Jesus is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds us and that keeps us from the love of God.

        True freedom and peace only can be honored by Jesus Christ!