**Homily for** **the** **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

 When I was a child, I thought that God is an old man with a long white beard. Perhaps in my childish mind, I thought He is gentle, generous, and harmless old man.

 Later, as I read the Bible, I realized that God is a spirit. He does not have a body, nor is He confined to one place as a physical being would be. At the same time, He has the attributes of a person: He thinks, He speaks, He communicates, He loves, He becomes angry. Because God is a person, He feels what we feel.

 No matter what we face, God understands what we are going through. He even understands our temptations and our sins, for Jesus has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. God made us in His image. So, He knows everything about us. He knows our problems, our situations, our feelings, our pains, and our sorrow. And, He is ready to help us always. That’s why we can bring everything, everything to Him in prayer, confident that He will understand everything about us. And, He has almighty power to touch in us and our all problems.

 Today’s Gospel emphasizes the great power and authority of Jesus. This world is usually controlled by powers such as political power or economic power. Many people follow these kinds of powers. But, today, we hear the great power and authority of Jesus. As Christians, we have to follow the power of Jesus, rather than the earthly power. Because the power and authority of Jesus are the only power on earth that don’t dominate us but really set us free.

 Last Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus said, “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” Then, He called His first disciples with authority. When Jesus called them, they immediately left their jobs and families, and followed Him. They did not hesitate to follow Jesus because His calling was so powerful for them.

 Today’s Gospel is a follow-up of last Sunday’s Gospel. When Jesus taught with authority, great things happened. So, people who heard His teaching were amazed, and asked one another, “What is this? This is a new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

 The people had never seen such great power. Now, His power and authority are among us to save us from all our problems. We need to trust Him.

 Jesus is calling us with great power and authority. Let us answer that calling by living our vocations, placing our faith, hope, and love in Jesus. We all have a calling to answer. God calls each one of us depending on our different conditions. There is a place for everybody in the Church, the Body of Christ.

 Each member of the Body of Christ is a living stone that belongs to a great Temple, the Church, the House of God. If we remove some of the stones from the structure, it will begin to fall. In the same way, if all the members of the Parish do not become actively involved in the ministry of the Church, the Parish will suffer. The Church cannot flourish by herself. The Church needs people! The Church needs you! We must not neglect this calling. We have to follow His calling and His teachings.

 That afternoon, in the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus freed a man whose name we don’t even know from a demon that controlled his life. This anonymous man could be one of us. There are a lot of unclean spirits in our minds such as hate, prejudice, greed, gossip, anger, gluttony, and lust. Whatever the unclean spirits in our minds, what Jesus did for that man in the synagogue, He can do for us. This is really Good News for us.

 So, let us recognize among us the One Who has the power and authority to cast out our unclean spirits, who seeks to enter our hearts and lives, Who wants to make us faithful and whole.

 That’s Him who is Jesus Christ our Savior!