



Reflection from Sr. Francis Voivedich

How are you Named

This Sunday's first reading speaks through Isaiah reminding the people that they are "the chosen ones". They often forgot and acted otherwise; they were in need of a nudge to make them remember who they were. Today we still forget and still need a nudge. We like the Israelites are special named: Sons and Daughters of God, all people of God. We, must strive to act like it, not for our sakes alone, but for the world and each living thing.

Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, reminds them/us of our giftedness and our responsibilities to carry this name, Beloved of God, by our actions and values.

The Gospel acclamation "Shine like lights in the world as you hold onto the Word of Life" reminds us even further of our beloved status, our duty to reflect the Christ light by acting as persons beloved of God; our name known by our acts of goodness and a life reflecting gospel values, even when they stand in opposition to other's views. Let the Light shine as we stand up for the rights of immigrants, people and families in dire poverty, all marginalized persons, the right to Life from beginning, throughout their days of life to natural death, etc. I do believe our actions shine in the world proclaiming this "Word of Life" and speak of our belief that we are children of our God, Beloved.

In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus shines another light by answering well the question of the tax. Give to Caesar what is his due, but remember your rights and obligations to God. Jesus knew of their deception, yet loved his people and continued to call them to recognize their status as the chosen people, "Beloved of God".

With this privilege came/comes greater responsibility, to be true to your name in word and deed. "Beloved of God".

Peace,

Sr. Fran