

The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 6/21/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

First Reading –Jeremiah 20:10-13: Jeremiah feels frustrated and afraid because people are against him for speaking God’s message. But he trusts that God is with him, protecting and strengthening him. He believes God will save him from his enemies.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 69: Call on God with faith, and He will answer with love. Even when others insult or reject you, trust in His mercy. God listens to the poor and those who suffer. Let all creation praise Him.

Second Reading – Romans 5:12-15: Sin and death came into the world through Adam. But Jesus Christ brings grace and eternal life. Adam’s sin brought punishment, but Jesus’ sacrifice brings forgiveness and new life to those who believe in Him.

Gospel – Matthew 10:26-33: Jesus tells His followers not to be afraid to share His message. Everything will be made known in time. Do not fear people who can only harm the body—fear God, who has power over both body and soul. If you stand up for Jesus, He will stand up for you before God.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Gospel reading primarily highlights the significance of Divine Providence—God, the Master of time and space, the Ruler of the universe and the world, and the Lord of each of our lives. Therefore, God invites us to place our trust in His providential hand; only then will we possess the courage to dedicate ourselves to the cause of His Kingdom.

1. Trusting in Divine Providence.

Human beings often lack inner peace because they are overly anxious about material possessions, leading to restless nights spent worrying and calculating thoughts that encroach upon all their time for rest and prayer, ultimately resulting in a loss of faith in God's divine plan.

Jesus does not advocate for us to be lazy or dependent; rather, He desires that we do not place excessive reliance on our own strength, but instead cultivate a spirit of trust and entrustment to God's Providence. Trust in Divine Providence is not passive in nature—it does not mean sitting idly by, waiting for *“heaven to provide for every need,”* nor does it represent an attitude of apathy, pessimism, or fatalistic resignation. Placing complete trust in God does not imply living a passive existence; rather, it means actively collaborating with God's work in accordance with each individual's vocation—for *“God helps those who help themselves.”* *“True faith must be manifested through deeds”*; the deeper our faith, the more we must dedicate *“all our strength, all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul”* to collaborating in God's work of creation and salvation.

This entails striving to build a better world—just as He created all things good—and laboring to build the Kingdom of Heaven, so that God's love may extend to embrace all people. Jesus offers concrete evidence to bolster our faith in God’s providence toward His noblest creation: *“The birds of the air, the lilies of the field—they are of little consequence, yet God constantly nourishes and cares for them.”* How much more, then, does He care for human beings—for we are created in God’s own image and redeemed by Jesus Christ at the very price of His own blood.

2. Courageously Committing Oneself to the Lord.

Our ancestors often used to say: *“The offspring of a noble lineage will resemble their forebears, if not in feather, then in wing.”* This means that children and grandchildren inherit many traits and resemblances from their parents and grandparents. Jesus once said: *“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master”* (Mt 10:24). This implies that just as Jesus is, so too must be those who follow Him. Christians are those who are called to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

The primary way in which Jesus says His disciples will resemble Him is by sharing in the same fate of persecution that the Master Himself endured: *“If the master of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!”* (Mt 10:26). However, Jesus also issues a definitive demand to those who dare to follow Him: *“Whoever acknowledges Me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies Me before others will be denied before the angels of God.”*

Today, we do not face the immediate, palpable persecution that characterized the era of the martyrs; thus, we are no longer required to make a public profession of faith in the direct manner of those witnesses of old. However, we continue to either profess or deny the Lord through the following ways of life:

Those who dare to live authentically—who dare to bear witness to the Lord and to the truth—must pay a heavy price: enduring persecution in various forms from the very institutions in which we live, as well as forfeiting opportunities for personal advancement...

Living out one's faith requires concrete expression in reality; yet there are many who claim to *“keep their faith in their hearts”* while ceasing to participate in Catholic community activities or receive the Sacraments—most notably the Holy Mass—and neglecting Confession and Holy Communion for years on end. Such actions run contrary to the teachings of the Lord and the Church. In particular, preoccupied with the daily struggle for survival, we forget the presence of God and neglect our spiritual duties. In doing so, we fail to profess the Lord while simultaneously, albeit indirectly, denying our faith.

Alternatively—in order to secure employment, retain a position within secular society, or avoid potential trouble and the ridicule of peers—we conceal our Catholic identity. Seeking personal security and fearing dangerous repercussions, we lack the courage to bear witness to the truth. For the sake of our livelihood, we compromise our conscience; for the sake of our status and position, we might become instruments of falsehood.

Or, when we encounter trials and failures—or when our prayers appear to go unanswered—we succumb to despair, reproach the Lord, and cast doubt upon His very existence. This, too, constitutes a form of denying the faith.

O Lord Jesus, through our immersion in the Sacrament of Baptism, we have been made to share in Your likeness. Grant that we may always be mindful that we are Christians, children of God, and that we may grow ever more like You amidst every trial and suffering, so that nothing may ever separate us from Your love. Amen.