



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



## 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A

Fr. David Rosenberg

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....Fear No One Matt 10:26

In today's readings, the disciples are sensing terror on every side. Former friends become spies for the Romans. Fear grips their hearts as sleepless nights are spent keeping vigilance in the dark for fear of soldiers beating down their doors and taking their loved ones away.

But Matthew declares in Jesus' name that the day will come when the kingdom of God will be obvious to all, when the Kingdom of God is fully established in this world. Not yet known by the world, Jesus tells his disciples that proclaiming the Good News to the world will pierce the darkness with the light of Christ, boldly-and everywhere. What they hear in private as the tiny community of first Christians they are to proclaim from the housetops in public, to the entire world.

Jesus goes on to proclaim that *"all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father."* This is a call to remember the Gift of Fortitude, given to us by the Holy Spirit. In reflection, let this lesson in courage and confidence settle in your heart and mind. This is the mystery and sacrament that we express outwardly to the world that we are in the Father's provident care. But it is also a lesson in priorities and commitment. As long as we are steadfast in the line of our Christian duty we will gain confidence that our destiny, predestined by God the Father at our conception, depends on our fidelity. Gaining this wisdom, we carry the *"Chi-Rho"* banner, our symbol that we are freed of fear, as Christ goes before us. This ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit declares to the world that we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. Faithful disciples, even those who undergo martyrdom, will be vindicated by the "Father in heaven."

In the words of Blessed Clelia Merloni (+1930), *"Be careful to never let your heart be disturbed or get involved in things that upset it, but always work to keep it calm. In this way the Lord will build in your soul a city of peace, and your heart will be a place of delights. Every time you get upset, Jesus simply wants you to come back to silence and calm yourself again in all your works and thoughts."*

*"The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for those he has anointed."* Ps 28



Chi-Rho Banner

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the Twelve:

*"Fear no one.*

*Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed,  
nor secret that will not be known.*

*What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;  
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.*

*And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;  
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy  
both soul and body in Gehenna.*

*Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?*

*Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.*

*Even all the hairs of your head are counted.*

*So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

*Everyone who acknowledges me before others*

*I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.*

*But whoever denies me before others,*

*I will deny before my heavenly Father."*

***The Gospel of the Lord***

