

Homily
Friday of the 6th Week in OT
February 9, 2024

During my formation to become a deacon, my fellow candidates and I struggled harder than we ever had in our lives. It seemed the odds were against us, yet we pushed forward, relying on each other to carry on. When one of us seemed on the verge of quitting, others around him propped him up. And most of us made it. Not all, but without each other, I don't believe any of us would have made it.

We are all deaf and mute. We can relate to the deaf man with a speech impediment in today's Gospel. Yes, we can hear, but imperfectly. Yes, we can speak, but only in disordered ways. It's our fallen human nature. We try as best we can, and sometimes come close, but never truly as God truly is. We are imperfect in our humanity. We are called to perfection and we struggle and grow and move toward perfection, never quit getting there.

Soloman, in his fallen human nature, sinned against God. The twelve tribes were split as punishment, two remaining in David's house, ten going with Jeroboam, who then rebelled against God and fought against David's house.

Sounds like us. We are split in so many ways, father against son, brother against brother, church against church, country against country. And Jesus continues to heal us, bringing us closer to Him and to each other through His Sacrament, the bread of life and the cup of salvation we will soon receive. And we get closer, only to fall again and again.

This is our story, the story of Salvation. From the moment of our creation, we thought we knew better. And God loves us just as we are, where we are, in our pride, in our selfishness, in our disordered passions. And He loves us too much to leave us where we are, calling us to perfection.

Today, we remember God's love for us, the Passion of Christ our Brother, the grace we all receive in our lives through the Sacraments, and we strive, we struggle, we take two steps forward and one step back. And we remain in faith, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, one family in God. We rely on the perfection of Jesus to heal us. We rely on the Father's mercy to bring us home. And we rely on each other, to prop us up when we struggle, to help us all continue on that common path through the narrow gate into our promised heavenly home.