



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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“I know not how to speak; I am too young” (Jer 1:6)

“In you, O Lord, I take refuge; Be my rock of refuge,
For you are my hope.” (Psalm 71)

“Some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit” (Mt 13:8)

I remember so vividly as a teenager the first baptism for which I played the guitar. The prayers of the ritual resonated deeply in my spirit. “Receive the light of Christ, keep it burning brightly; always walk as a child of the light with God’s flame alive in your heart.” “You are baptized prophet, priest, and king.”

Through the various seasons of life as one who has been baptized prophet, priest, and king, different aspects of these baptismal roles are highlighted in our lives. Watching movies where good triumphs over evil, such as Star Wars, or Harry Potter, or Star Trek, or a host of others, we inevitably engage with the protagonists, rooting for them to be victorious, to defeat evil and win the day, free the people, and shine the light of truth to overcome falsehoods. Who of us doesn’t cheer in *The Color Purple* when Celie finally rejects the abuse and dumps the dinner plate into the lap of “Mister”? Delving in depth into the biblical prophets is not nearly as satisfying, no triumphant scenes of overcoming adversity, just the steadfast faithfulness of God, just the same call to trust in God and to believe deep within one’s soul to, “have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

How do we respond to the call to live out the moral imperative to speak truth to power, to be bold, to trust God? Like Jeremiah, most of us respond in a similar manner: “I know not how to speak; I am too young.” In reality, most of us have more relevant excuses than Jeremiah: I’m afraid for my job; I don’t want to cause problems; I am just keeping my head down and doing my work; I am too busy; I don’t like conflict; and the excuses go on and on, *ad infinitum*.

Psalm 71 provides words of faithful encouragement to face the struggles, and to overcome the fear, “In you, O Lord, I take refuge; Be my rock of refuge; For you are my hope.” This prayer emboldens us to trust in God’s call, to live into our baptismal call, like the biblical prophets, and to follow the moral imperative to speak truth to power, regardless of the very real and sometimes devastating consequences. Let’s be honest, people in authority who have power over others do not like the light of truth to shine on their propaganda; in fact, they often abuse their power and authority to crush truth and those who speak it because it is threatening, it is dangerous. Yet, the baptismal call to be a prophet is both continuous and compelling.

Pray friends that world-wide, we along with our brothers and sisters, will be like the “seed that fell on rich soil, and produced fruit” in Matthew’s gospel. And demonstrate with our lives that we “have ears to hear”, the courage to “have no fear before them” and the faith to live our baptismal call to be prophets, to speak truth to power, believing that as the psalm states: “In you, O Lord, I take refuge, let me never be put to shame.”

Sr. Karen has been a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood for over 40 years. She has spent most of her career focused on educational endeavors. She serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute and she also serves as the Chief Mission and Belonging Officer for Mt. Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. To learn more about the University visit www.msje.edu To learn more about the Sisters of the Precious Blood visit: preciousbloodsistersdayton.org

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org