

**Reflection: 'SON OF MARY' By Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

As we've walked with the Apostles in the Gospels in recent weeks, we've witnessed Jesus command the wind and sea, and order a little girl to arise from the dead. But He seems to meet His match in His hometown of Nazareth. Today's Gospel is blunt: "He was not able to perform any mighty deed there." Why not? Because of the people's lack of faith. They acknowledged the wisdom of His words, the power of His works. But they refused to recognize Him as a prophet come among them, a messenger sent by God. All they could see was how much "this man" was like them—a carpenter, the son of their neighbor, Mary, with brothers and sisters. Of course, Mary was ever-virgin, and had no other children. The Gospel refers to Jesus' brothers as Paul refers to all Israelites as his brothers, the children of Abraham. That's the point in today's Gospel, too. Like the prophet Ezekiel in today's First Reading, Jesus was sent by God to the rebellious house of Israel, where He found His own brothers and sisters obstinate of heart and in revolt against God. The servant is not above the Master. As His disciples, we too face the mockery and contempt we hear of in today's Psalm. And isn't it often hardest to live our faith among those in our own families, those who think they really know us, who define us by the people we used to be—before we chose to walk with Jesus? As Paul confides in today's Epistle, insults and hardships are God's way of teaching us to rely solely on His grace. Jesus will work no mighty deeds in our lives unless we abandon ourselves to Him in faith. Blessed then are those who take no offense in Him. Instead, we must look upon Him with the eyes of servants—knowing that the son of Mary is also the Lord enthroned in the heavens.



**CONSOLATA SHRINE**  
**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**8<sup>th</sup> July 2018**



**The Power of God Is Manifested through the Weakness**

**FIRST READING**

**Ezekiel 2:2-5**

*"They are a rebellious house; they will know that there has been a prophet among them."*

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel**

In those days: The Spirit entered into me and set me upon my feet: and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the sons of Israel, to a nation of rebels, who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The people also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them; and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that there has been a prophet among them."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

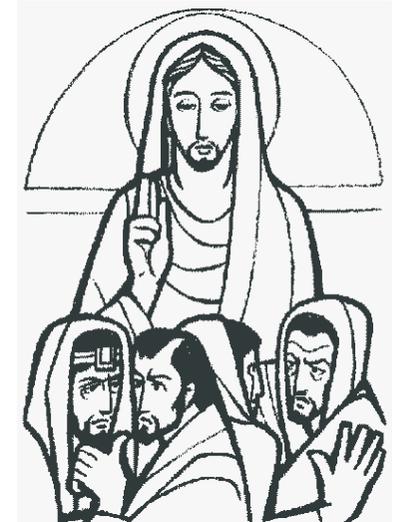
**Psalm 123:1-4**

**R. Our eyes are on the Lord our God, till he show us his mercy.**

To you have I lifted up my eyes,  
you who dwell in the heavens.  
Behold, like the eyes of slaves  
on the hand of their lords. **R**

Like the eyes of a servant  
on the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes are on the Lord our God,  
till he show us his mercy. **R**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed, all too full is our soul  
with the scorn of the arrogant,  
the disdain of the proud. **R**



**DAILY READINGS**

Monday: Hos 2:14-16,19-20; Ps 145; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8-9; Ps 80; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Hos 14:1-9; Ps 51; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Is 6:1-8; Ps 93; Mt 10:24-33

**Schedules for Masses:**

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili

9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm English

Saturday: English 7.00 a.m.; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7.00 am & 1.15 am,  
5.30 pm Kiswahili

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## SECOND READING

### 2Corinthians 12:7-10

*"I will boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

#### A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: To keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it should leave; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.



#### Alleluia

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.*

#### Alleluia.



## GOSPEL

### Mark 6:1-6

*"A prophet is not without honour, except in his own country."*

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark



Jesus came to his own country; and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue; and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! Is not this

the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

## Announcements

1. Yesterday we started the novena of 9 Saturdays to prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lady on 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The rosary with candles will be prayed every Saturday after the evening mass followed by a flowering to Our Lady and a Marian reflection.
2. Single Parents Group will have their monthly meeting next Sunday at 10.30am in the Prayer Garden. All are welcome
3. Upcoming Events (Mini Harambee's) in support of the Allamano Centre, as follows:
  - Mini Harambee on 5th July 2018, our guest of honour Mr. George Kihara
  - Mini Harambee on 19th August 2018, our guest of honour Dr Samuel Kiruthu.
  - Prayer walk to climb Mt Kenya, 20th to 24th August 2018. 40 pilgrims are required at a cost of Kshs 150,000 each. Those who wish to sponsor and contribute towards the pilgrimage can do so at the gazebo.
  - Consolata Shrine Dinner on 31st August 2018 at Kshs. 5,000/ per head. Tickets available at the gazebo.
  - Various souvenirs also on sale at the gazebo.Your support, prayers, presence and contributions towards the project is appreciated.
4. The Apostolate Committee is organizing the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Subukia on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August at a Cost of KShs. 1,100. Kindly register at the desk in the gazebo.

A LIFE IN THE HOLYSPIRIT SEMINAR is ongoing every Sunday from 2pm to 5pm in the Parish Hall. Come and enrich our faith in Christ Jesus. Open to all Parishioners.



Various Souvenirs. Get one for your loved ones.