

September 6, 2009

Twenty-third Sunday (B)

Theme: Four C's of Faith: involves conviction / confession / commitment / confidence

**A. Baseball seasons is beginning to wind down as the football starts to wind up ...
most of us are familiar with a baseball diamond:**

- four bases
- different types of hits: single, double, triple, home run
- rbi's era's the stats

**B. Our faith might be compared to the four bases of this great national past time ...
the label those bases: conviction / confession / commitment / confidence**

C. 4 C's

- 1. Conviction – first base: God's radical love Isaiah: 43**
 - today's passage ... "Be strong, fear not!" God will achieve ultimate victory
 - **HOPKINS: THE WORLD IS CHARGED WITH THE GRANDUER OF GOD**
 - struggle: do not see, hear ... desert, burning sands ... human condition
- 2. Confession – second base: Augustine's autobiography ... d ouble**
 - confession: of his sins / even more, confession of his faith
 - Gospel: crowds were amazed / astonished at the healing
 - comment: "He had done all things well."
 - our confession: our faith in creation and our redemption
 - Jesus: re-established a broken harmony / experience that both in our confession of faith ... and our confession of our sins
- 3. Commitment – third base: St. James**
 - no partiality ... pay attention to everyone ...
 - **MONDAY: PARTIALITY ... TO THE EIGHTH GRADERS**
 - human dignity across the board ... every person = made to God's image even though sometimes we do not live in his likeness ... commitment to grow
 - danger of discrimination
- 4. Confidence – home plate: looking to the future with hope**
 - man with disabilities: sight and hearing ... trouble hearing and speaking
 - all of us struggle with this ... need to hear the voice of God in every sound / need insight / need to hear those far off things
 - **E. E. CUMMING ... now my eyes are open /my ears awake**

D. The same Jesus who walked along the Sea of Galilee into the district of the Decapolis is here in this sacrament: call us to deeper faith – conviction, confession, commitment, confidence – and offers us his grace to live this faith.