

Reflection 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26, 2021

Growing up I understood a prophet as one who told the future. I am not certain from where that thinking germinated but there are lots of child understandings that have had to be reconciled with deeper knowledge I have learned as I have lived life. Today when I google "prophet" the first description that arrives is this: "In religion, a prophet is an individual who is regarded as being in contact with a divine being and is said to speak on behalf of that being.....". In Numbers the writer suggests that it would be good if everyone was a prophet.

In today's world I am thinking that a lot of people think of themselves as prophets but the majority are speaking from their own narrow belief systems and are not truly in touch with the divine. My belief is that a true prophet speaks a truth that is always bigger than themselves and that there is no personal gain in their words. In fact, usually they may have a lot to lose regards their own standing in the culture or community. When one is truly connected with the divine one knows the truth and is given the courage to speak it.

In this community known as St. Cronan's there are many prophets each with their own unique and special gifts. It is our call to listen and to discern where each of us is being called and challenged to respond to the Spirit in our lives. There are multiple opportunities and no one can do it all. However together we can and do live the Gospel to be a light to the nations, a witness to Love and a call to faith. This quote may help us understand what that call to faith might look like: "Faith itself sometimes needs to be stripped of its social and historical encrustations and returned to its first, churchless incarnation in the human heart." Christian Wiman

Kathleen Stock