

In industry as well as in the military, there are usually more senior people assigned to the newer employees to act as a mentor. My own mentor, as a recently ordained priest, is Father Loren in Mount Pleasant.

A mentor can be a very good thing provided that the relationship is healthy and the individuals are well-matched.

In some circumstances, a mentor begins to think that they are the “model” whom the new person has to emulate. This can be a bit ridiculous, and I’ve seen it happen, where a mentor expects their charge to dress like them, act like them, eat like them, and be part of their social life.

In today’s first reading we hear about Elisha who is the successor of Elijah.

Elijah is praised in Scripture as being one of the greatest prophets. So great, in fact, that he didn’t die ... but rather, at the end of his life, was swept up in a whirlwind to heaven.

One would think that Elisha would have been happy to emulate so great a prophet as Elijah. And while this is a good thing, just before Elijah departs, Elisha asks ... NOT for a share of Elijah’s spirit ... NOT for Elijah’s spirit ... BUT instead, Elisha asks for a DOUBLE portion of Elijah’s spirit.

That is, instead of emulating Elijah, Elisha wants to be even a greater prophet than Elijah.

In the Gospel, we hear a similar story to that of Elisha and Elijah. But whereas Elisha was allowed to tie up his loose ends and take care of his people before going away to follow Elijah ... Jesus demands more of his followers. And it almost sounds like too much.

Saint Paul exhorts us in the second reading when he says:

*For you were called for freedom ...*

*But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh;  
rather, serve one another through love.*

And that is the key.

Life in Christ calls us to freedom, but not an individualistic freedom that ties us down in our sins, or in things, or even in another person ... freedom in Christ Jesus is freedom FROM sin NOT freedom TO sin.

Freedom that leads to sin is in and of itself SLAVERY to SIN.

Let me say that again: the freedom we receive in the Sacraments, starting with Baptism, is ... FREEDOM FROM SIN as opposed to FREEDOM TO SIN.

And so, as we approach this altar to receive the sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; let us pray to be drawn deeper into the mysteries of our Faith through the power of the Sacraments – those we have already received, or those we are about to receive. Let us tap into the POWER of God and live our lives not only FOR Christ, but THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, and IN HIM.

For, through these Sacramental mysteries, we are the daughters and sons of God the Father, redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and called to be filled with the POWER of the Holy Spirit.