

## Fr. Simon Sez

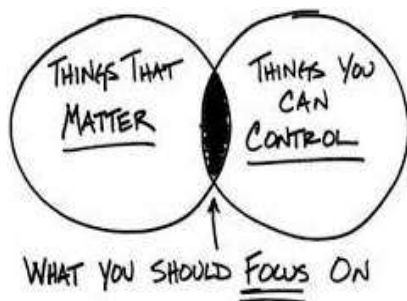
Tanner E., Neva M., Olivia M. and I joined up with the Immaculate Conception Parish chaperones at the Pro-Life Mass in St. Joseph Cathedral last Wednesday, January 19, 2022. We began our journey after that Mass and returned to Sioux Falls last Sunday evening. We thank the individuals who donated toward this pilgrimage including John Langer.

We traveled 24 hours overnight, lodged, and then attended the March for Life rally in the morning with music and speakers. We marched with about 150,000 pro-life people from west of the Capitol on the Mall, down Pennsylvania Avenue, to the front of the Supreme Court building. The group “Silent No More” was giving a speech there while we prayed. They are a group of people who have had abortions and are willing to now speak up and help those who are suffering the after effects of having an abortion. (This organization is opening an office with Mission S.O.S. in the Gas & Goodies strip mall next to the apartment next to Planned Parenthood at 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Sertoma Avenue across from Roosevelt High School.)

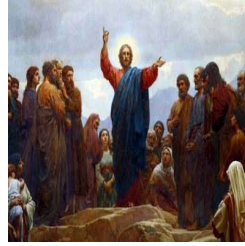
That evening our group went to the national Bible Museum and Fisherman’s Warf. We then did a lighted evening walk to the memorials in the Mall area. (We walked a total of 20 miles that day.)

We had free time all day on Saturday until the Sunday Vigil Saturday evening Mass at St. Dominic Church and our departure for another overnight trip back to Sioux Falls. The diocese did not have anything specific planned. I worked out a plan for the day with all of the chaperones on the bus. I gave them a tour of the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Land and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. (As a seminarian, I was a tour guide there and served the Masses there.) In the afternoon I took them to Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial).

I was “wiped out” after returning and walking the slowest of all people with a limp. I eventually recovered this past week. We are hoping this will be the last March for Life. If the present Supreme Court cases lead to the overturn of *Roe vs Wade* and *Doe vs Bolton*, then the abortion issue will probably return to the states other than international funding. Pro-Life presidents use the Mexico City policy to block the United States from paying for abortions abroad.



## Prophet to the Nations: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time



Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19  
Psalm 71:1–6, 15–17  
1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13  
Luke 4:21–30

God’s words in today’s First Reading point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a “prophet to the nations” (see Luke 1:31–33).

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus too faces hostility. In today’s Gospel, the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins—that He’s more than just “the son of Joseph.”

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colorful careers Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass “many . . . in Israel” to bestow God’s blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God (see 1 Kings 17:1–16; 2 Kings 5:1–14). “None . . . not one” in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasizes.

His point isn’t lost on His audience. They know He’s likening them to the “many . . . in Israel” in the days of the prophets. That’s why they try to shove Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

And as were Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is sent to proclaim God’s gift of salvation—not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realize in faith that from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their “rock of refuge,” as we sing in today’s Psalm.

Prophecies, Paul tells us in today’s Epistle, are partial and pass away “when the perfect comes.” In Jesus, the word of the prophets has been brought to perfection, fulfilled in those who have ears to hear, as He declares in today’s Gospel.

Greater than the gifts of faith and hope, Jesus shows us how to love as He loved—to love God as our Father, as the one who formed us in the womb and destined us to hear His saving Word.

This is the salvation, the “mighty works of the Lord,” that we, like the psalmist, are thankful to proclaim daily in the Eucharist.