

20TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 14, 2016—They were over 1 million strong. Young people gathered in Krakow, Poland from every corner of the globe as World Youth Day 2016 unfolded. It was the birthplace of our late beloved St. Pope John Paul II, who began World Youth Day. Now these young people come to pray and sing and meet other Catholic youth, and they come especially to gather around the Vicar of Peter, our beloved and inspirational shepherd, Pope Francis. **No other individual** on the planet can gather such a crowd—as our Holy Father challenged them and as he challenges the entire world with the Gospel message.

Interestingly enough, there was very little coverage in the news, that would rather focus on a Presidential election fistfight or a world and a nation gone mad with violence. But that inspirational gathering in Poland, prompted our Holy Father, who could not resist wading into the massive crowds and blessing and kissing the faithful, to tell the young people to “*shake things up*” and speak up for the Faith, defend the poor and forgotten, and live with love the Doctrines of the Church. Our Holy Father said this:

Jesus can give you true passion for life. Jesus can inspire us not to settle for less, but to give the very best of ourselves. Jesus challenges us, spurs us on and helps us keep trying whenever we are tempted to give up. Jesus pushes us to keep our sights high and to dream of great things.

In fact, this exchange is not much different from what we just heard in the Gospel this morning (Luke 12:49-53], our Blessed Lord certainly **shakes things up** when He tells His followers that to hear and live His message, hardship of every kind—even family divisions and woes—will follow. But if we do, great joy will be ours; not just here in this life, but most importantly in the next.

My friends, from Jerusalem to Krakow to these very pews, the message is clear: embrace the Lord and His heavenly Father and then, with courage, love and kindness, share it with others.

God love you.