

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Indianapolis**  
**Sunday, July 7/8, 2018 Cycle B**

The scriptures this weekend have some things about prophecy and prophets. It is very difficult for us to get our minds around, but you and I, as Ezekiel, Paul, and Jesus were, are called to share in this ministry of being a prophet. As we came through the waters of Baptism, we were anointed on our heads with the sacred oil of Chrism to share in Jesus' priesthood, prophethood, and kingship.

Being a prophet for God really has little, if any, to do with being able to foretell the future. For God, prophecy means speaking truth to those who have power, certainly speaking truth calling on people to make the necessary changes in their lives, and change how we usually relate to each other in the world. Speaking truth can be risky! Ezekiel was, Paul was persecuted; eventually put to death, and Jesus was persecuted and found the Cross. Jesus says it is certainly difficult for a prophet to find a hearing in his own native place, among his own kin, and even in his own house.

Missionary work is very similar to the work of being a prophet. Missionaries speak the truth of the Gospel into the world, and many missionaries have suffered rejection, persecution, and death for their efforts. This weekend we have a Holy Cross Brother speaking to us about the Holy Cross Brothers' missionary work and asking us to help them in their mission work. With that I invite Brother Roy Smith to come up and speak about his missionary work.