

Remember Rodney Dangerfield? He made famous "I get no respect! No respect!" In the language of our 1<sup>st</sup> Reading today we might call Rodney "The King of Grumblers." His whole comedy routine was based on this one idea: complaining how he didn't get any respect.

The reading from Exodus restores and rehabilitates the practice of grumbling. We hear how the people of Israel grumbled. Not only did they grumble, but the Lord heard their grumbling. Grumbling can be a kind of prayer when addressed to God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit. However, the people did NOT stay stuck on grumbling. They looked around and saw how they were blest, in today's particular circumstance, with food to eat.

How are we when it comes to grumbling? Are we aware of its value and worth?

We can grumble about anything: the weather, food, and relationships

rules, laws and regulations

school, teachers, the mail

the price of gas, bills, the cost of .....you name it

There is no end to the possibilities.

Although there may not be any, St. Teresa of Avila could be the patron saint of grumblers.

During a particular difficult time in her life she said to God: "If you treat your friends this way, no wonder you have so few." Now that is grumbling at its finest.

In terms of the spiritual life, grumbling can be a form of prayer. No doubt there are some people whose favorite prayer form might be grumbling. It makes all the difference in the world to know that the Lord hears us when we grumble. God pays attention to us and listens whenever we speak. Our grumbling is not in vain. Once we share our grumbling, we can move on. We have space within us for new life. What the Israelites did was to notice how they were blest. They had food to eat. The Lord provided.

All that we grumble about can be areas where we are also grateful. The slow driver about whom we complain can be perceived anew as a safe driver. The extra time it takes us in a slow check out line can be thought of as an opportunity to practice patience.

My sisters and brothers, this week pay attention to our grumbling. Trust that the Lord listens to us in our hurt, pain and complaining. And as God hears us, we experience a release. Then, we can recognize that God is blessing us.

Rodney Dangerfield may have had no respect. We, when grumbling from our heart, have God's respect. Let's see if we can daily move from grumbling to gratitude for God's goodness. We can start NOW.