**Homily for** **the** **5th Sunday in Ordinary Time***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

In today’s Gospel, Jesus came to Simon Peter’s hometown for a visit. He spent the morning in the local synagogue preaching and teaching! Then, He went to Peter’s home where He cured Peter’s mother-in-law.

That evening, the whole town gathered at Peter’s door: the blind, lepers, the sick, the lame, and those possessed by demons, asking Jesus for a cure. He cured many of them.

He works tirelessly from morning to night. He never thinks of Himself. He never says He is too tired or too busy to serve someone or to give others part of His time. He is there for everyone, and He keeps pushing Himself to do more and more.

He loves, and His love compels Him to give Himself to everyone around Him without counting the cost. The whole city gathers to see Him, and He opens His heart to all. He teaches. He heals the sick. He casts out demons. He is a man for others.

After a full day of work, Jesus rested for just a little while, and then, He rose early morning for prayer. There was a balance between His apostolic work and His life of prayer. He found strength in prayer. He strengthened His resolve to follow His Father’s plan in prayer. Prayer was not just one-time activity; it was part of His daily routine.

“Everyone is searching for you,” they said. They expressed the desire of every person. We all need Christ. He is the deepest desire of the human heart. God is searching for us, too.

How can we meet Jesus?

Through prayer. Through prayer, we speak heart-to-heart with the One whom we know loves us. Through prayer, our love for others is enkindled so that we can spend ourselves tirelessly for others as Jesus did. Without prayer, we will have nothing to give others. Through prayer, we can be men and women for others.

Jesus says, “Let us go on to other town.” In these words, we see the heart of Jesus. He has come to fulfill the Father’s will and to save His people. “Let us go on.” There is no time to waste. He wants to reach many other souls to help them and save them.

He is come to us, saying “Let me go on to you.” Let us open our heats to the greatness of His love for all mankind. And, let us go on to Him!