



*From the Office of the President*

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REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Homily for the Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year (B)  
St. John Francis Regis Chapel, Regis University  
September 30, 2018**

**Numbers 11:25-29**

**Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14**

**James 5:1-6**

**Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**

Do you know that each one of us was baptized as “priest, prophet, and king”?

Do you know that the office of prophet, the mantle given by the Holy Spirit is far more important than the office of priest?

Do you know that we are all meant to share in the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy, as Moses implied in the first reading?

“Prophets announce future promise. They also unmask idols of the present. This is why they are resented, those ‘prophets of doom,’ ‘disgruntled grouchers spouting jeremiads.’ They rant uninvited and out of turn” (Kavanaugh, *The Word Encountered*, 106). They make us uncomfortable, sometimes ashamed; they disrupt our lives.

So Joshua asked Moses to stop two latecomers, upstarts, “unordained” interferers from prophesying in the camp. These prophets had not been legitimized or approved. Eldad and Medad had not gone with the other sixty-eight elders to receive the Spirit of Prophecy, the Spirit of God.

What did Moses say? How did he respond? He gave a cry of the heart saying, “Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all.”

Did you see Senator Jeff Flake call for another, deeper, FBI investigation into the behavior of Judge Brett Kavanaugh on Thursday? Do you know why he changed his vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee? I suspect it had a great deal to do with a very uncomfortable challenge, even a rant, by two women who stopped him in the “Senators Only” elevator when he was on his way to cast the deciding vote to bring Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Senate floor. Did you see these women who in tears spoke their very hard truth to a very powerful man, who had made up his mind to go along, to acquiesce to the support of a majority? These women shared their unmeasurable pain with him, the pain of their own sexual abuse.



Senator Flake stopped and listened. Did you see his face as he listened? He then made space for a deeper truth to be investigated and brought in front of our whole nation.

I do not know if Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's or Judge Brett Kavanaugh's understanding of the truth will be vindicated. However, I do know that prophets have spoken and have made us all uncomfortable and ashamed.

Jesus said the truth in today's gospel: "Do not prevent someone from speaking in my name," from doing a good deed, from telling their truth. "There is not one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

What if, as Jesus warns, our too easy capitulation to entrenched, self-righteous power ties a millstone around our neck or makes of our lives and our society a living Gehenna? What if our unwillingness to challenge power – whether arrogant and toxic masculinity or rabid clericalism or entrenched political power of any persuasion – dashes our deepest hopes of our young and causes them despair?

Let us listen to the prophets in our midst.