



Scripture Reflection
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
“Meeting God Without Fear”

We live with too much fear of God.

Partly its bad theology, but mostly we fear because we’ve never experienced the kind of love that’s manifest in God and we take for granted that anyone who sees us as we really are (in our unloveliness, weaknesses, pathology, sin, insubstantiality) will, in the end, be as disappointed with us as we are with ourselves.

At the end of the day we expect that God is disappointed with us and will greet us with a frown. The tragedy and sadness here is that, because we think that God is disappointed in us, especially at those times when we are disappointed with ourselves, we try to avoid meeting the one person, the one love, and the one energy, God, that actually understands us, accepts us, delights in us, and is eager to smile at us. We are relieved that we never have to pick up Jesus at an airport.

That’s also true of church: we stay away from church exactly at those times when we would most need to be there.

- Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI