

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR B,

October 18th, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: ISAIAH 53: 10-11

PSALM 33

2ND READING: HEBREWS 4:14-16

GOSPEL: MARK 10:35-45

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In the recent movie, **Julie and Julia**, two women of very different generations, times and backgrounds find their lives purpose in cooking; Julia Child, who changed America's attitude toward food with her landmark cookbook on French cooking; and Julie Powell, a young blogger who chronicled her yearlong adventure cooking all 500 of Julia Child's recipes.

Early in the film there is a close moment that speaks to us of the truth in today's Gospel. The younger Julie works in a cubicle for the City of New York, answering calls all day regarding insurance claims as a result of 9/11. At lunch she is humiliated by her super New York businesswomen-friends with their BlackBerrys and i-pods, investment deals and lucrative writing gigs.

Her job is a thankless succession of mourning, emotional calls from people trying to connect with the correct bureaucracy. One caller who has had enough of being shuffled around among offices ends up on Julie's line one morning.

"Are you the person to speak to about my insurance form?" he asks.

"You can speak to me." Julie replies, with detached officiousness.

"Do you have any power?"

There is a split second of silence before she answers. The question caught her off guard and broke through her preoccupation with her own life.

"No." she stammers.

It is an epiphany moment for Julie. What are her education and skills, her passions and life amounting to? Isn't that the answer most of us would give: "No, I do not have power." But is that right; is that really the truth?

Julia and Julie found power by using the gifts God gave them to serve other people French food recipes. If they could do so much with food recipes, imagine the power if we shared the recipe for life we have in the Bible with others! Just think about all we could accomplish if we served people the Good News of Jesus Christ! My friends, we do have power, we could change the world, we just have to get out of our cubicles to become the power for His Divine Good.