

## 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42

"Here I am." "Here I am."

The youth, Samuel, knew someone was calling out to him. At first he thought it was the elderly Eli, the high priest of the temple, but it wasn't. When Samuel kept hearing the voice calling out and kept disturbing Eli from his sleep; Eli soon realized what was truly happening – God was speaking. Prophecy and divine revelation were not common at this time so it was somewhat of a surprise to both Samuel and Eli to realize God was speaking. Through Eli's wisdom and knowledge of the Lord, he asks Samuel to respond the next time, "Speak, your servant is listening".

God does speak to us every day through our prayer, reading the Holy Scriptures or through other people. God calls out to us, just like He spoke to Samuel. Are we open to hear and respond to His voice? Or are we unfamiliar or afraid of God revealing Himself. God's voice is drastically different from the many voices we hear in our world today.

Why would God call out to us? I believe that God is speaking to us so that we may fulfill His will in our life. God's will may be thought of as our vocation. To what vocation is God calling each of us?

The definition for vocation is:

1. a particular occupation, business or profession; calling.
2. a strong impulse or inclination to follow a particular activity or career.
- 3. a divine call to God's service or to the Christian life.**
4. a function or station in life to which one is called by God:  
*the religious vocation; the vocation of marriage.*

We normally think of vocation as our career or the work we do. I would suggest that we look at vocation as the call God has on our life - through single life, marriage, religious life, ordained – priest or deacon. Career or particular gifts and talents we possess may be considered a vocation, but are actually a means of providing for ourselves and the good of others.

As our love for Jesus grows and deepens, we desire holiness. Those who are married are called to help their spouse grow in holiness. One great option is to prayer together as a couple. Parents are the first teachers of their children to help them grow in holiness. The priest or deacon(s) of a parish are here to help guide us in our spiritual journey, to grow in holiness.

To help us grow in holiness, let us look at the words from our second reading – our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are to treat our own body and others as one consecrated to Christ and where the Holy Spirit dwells. At our baptism, the Holy Spirit took permanent residence and we join in the mission of Christ as priest, prophet and king. At our confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2 – wisdom, understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord); which empower us to grow in holiness. The fruit of the Holy Spirit are to flow through us – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galations 5:22). We are

not to allow works of the flesh to overpower us: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing and the like (Galatians 5:20-21). These are sins against our body created in image and likeness of God.

In our gospel reading, John the Baptist proclaims "Behold, the Lamb of the God." It is a distinct designation of the apocalyptic lamb who will destroy evil. When Andrew and John hear this, they ask Jesus where are you staying. Jesus responds, "Come and you will see". Andrew invites his brother, Peter, to join him. From that invitation, Jesus identifies Peter as Cephas, upon whom the Church will be built.

We are shown from this passage that in order to fully understand Jesus as Messiah, we need to accept Jesus invitation to "come and see." We need to open our heart, our mind, and our spirit to Jesus. We need to listen to God's voice and respond. God will guide us in our true vocation and path to holiness – the one we are created to fulfill. God, the Father's will was fulfilled through Jesus, his Son. We need to strengthen our search and desire to know Jesus. To follow Him as our guide, our Rabbi, our teacher, our Saviour.

Do we have the courage to open our ears our heart to listen to God's voice calling us? Are we willing to respond, "Speak, your servant is listening?"

For many of us, we question everything and often have a hard time following in blind faith or knowing God's will for us. Many of us become handicapped in the sense of being "spiritually deaf." We become deaf and choose not to listen. Our lives become so busy or we don't take time to be still, to be quiet, to be calm – we often miss God calling out to us. God doesn't yell, scream or holler to get our attention. He is calm, quiet, serene – just like Jesus was when the disciples asked where He was staying. Jesus spoke with a gentle, loving voice – "Come and you will see."

Are we willing to stop? Listen? Truly listen in complete silence/solitude, for God's voice, to follow Jesus' footsteps, and to see where our journey leads. Are we willing to accept Jesus invitation to "come and see"?

Deacon Ron Smith - 1-14-18

### **Catechecism of the Catholic Church**

**462, 516, 2568, 2824** – the Father's will fulfilled in Christ

**543-546** – to welcome the Kingdom, welcome the Word of God

**873-874** – Christ, the source of Christian vocation

**364, 1004** – the dignity of the body

**1656, 2226** – helping children discover their vocation

**523, 606-608** – The "Lamb who takes away the sin of the world." Jesus comes to do the Father's will.

**1546-1547** – Christ incorporates the baptized into the mission of priest, prophet and king. He further and uniquely shares himself through the ministerial priesthood.

**2578** – Samuel learns prayerful listening for God's voice.

**364, 1004, 2331-2359** – The is to be honored. It participates in Christ dignity. The vocation of chastity (Sixth Commandment).

**1265, 1269, 1694-1695** – The baptized are incorporated into Christ, belong now to him and are called to be saints and temples of the Holy Spirit.

**1709** – Faith transforms us so that we can follow Christ.