

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in Church on vocation to priesthood and religious life. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go home?"

Dear friends,

We start the ordinary time of the year. This week readings invite us to think about our own calling or vocation. The church is always called to read the signs of the times in the light of our faith. In the midst of everything we face with the pandemic, we need to ask: Is God speaking right now? How do we hear and see God in this moment? How do we listen for his voice?

God's call can happen in so many ways. We have two of those examples in the readings today. We also read how God called some of the people who were made saints. God's call has many dimensions.

In the first reading, we listened to how Samuel discerned the call of God. Once discerned, he listened to God. For him, he took three times to understand God's call. Eli, the priest helped him discern the call. To make someone as a disciple, we need someone or some events. In the New Testament when Mary and Joseph got God's call, it was through the angel Gabriel, and through dreams.

In the Gospel, Jesus called a couple of the disciples. They were looking for something. They were introduced or heard what John told them. As I was preaching last week, there were many times, someone invited to listen to God's call as middleman. Discerning to God's call is the first step to know and follow Jesus.

Listening to him plays a major role. The disciples wanted to know where he was staying. He said come and see. We may not be able to understand or recognize God's call until we are willing to listen to him. The voice of God can be anywhere, in any guise. It isn't thunder and lightning or extraordinary psychic happenings that connect a person to God. Rather, it is the willingness to listen, to trust and obey, that makes the Lord known to you.

We say that we are welcoming everyone who comes here. I would like to reflect with you that how many times have we welcomed someone when they are looking for God? For Samuel, there was a priest, for the disciples, there was John and Jesus. For Peter, there was Andrew. Today you and I are supposed to help someone listen to God's voice. Let us welcome to join in God's family.

God calls you and me to follow him. Do we realize the call for his mission?

We are busy in our own world where we have no time to listen to God or understand God is calling you. As we are a gift from God, he invites to discern his call and follow him in our family and in our community where we live.

Everyone is called by God to be a witness for Christ by doing something for others with his or her life, using his or her unique gifts and blessings. Hence, today's readings remind us of our personal and corporate call to become witnesses for Jesus, the Lamb of God, by leading lives of holiness and purity.