

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A young boy wanted to go down to the lake to fish, and his mother asked him to take his little sister with him. He said, "Mom, don't make me take her with me. The last time she came with me, I didn't catch a single fish." The mother said, "I'll talk to her, and I promise this time she won't make any noise." The boy said, "Mom, it wasn't the noise. She ate all my bait!"

Dear Friends,

There is a famous quote from St. Francis de sales, "Bloom where you are planted,". Life has given so many opportunities for us to make our life beautiful. God has created this world for us to properly make use of it. God has constant concern for us. His love continues in the present and beyond.

Today's readings tell us to put our soul and heart to God's call, change our life and commit ourselves to God's way.

The first reading from the Book of Jonah invites to the call of repentance. When they received the message from Jonah, starting from king to the least were ready to listen to God and changed their way of life. They felt the need of the hours. Not only do the people of Nineveh repent of the evil, but also God himself repents of his desire to destroy Nineveh when he sees the people's resolve to change their lives. When God plans a mission, he never leaves the mission unaccomplished. Even Jonah didn't want to do that personally. God sent him some signs and made him do it.

In the gospel, Jesus proclaimed the good news of repentance and called the disciples for mission. It was a constant call from Jesus to every one of us. The four disciples responded immediately and committed themselves to follow Jesus.

What is our commitment to follow Jesus? He invites all of us for his mission. It is the right time to do that. How do we do that?

As a follower and disciple of Jesus, let us listen to him and commit ourselves. Let us appreciate our call to be Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually and collectively. The mission of preaching, teaching, and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is now the responsibility of the Church. Our own unique vocation and our relationship with the risen Lord are the same as that of the universal Church. Be we religious, priests, married or single people, we are all called, and in this call we become what God wants us to be.

God is relentless in calling us back to Himself, even when we stray away from Him. Perhaps, God is asking us to see His hand in unexpected changes, reminding us that we are a pilgrim people who cannot be settled down into comfortable routine! Even when the changes are, apparently, not for the better, how we deal with them is what matters.