

I. Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

II. The call of Samuel and the call of the disciples of John

A. The Church intends that we make a clear connection between the call that Samuel receives and the call which those two disciples on the shore of Galilee receive.

1. Both are being called by God to a special mission.

B. There is also a significant difference.

1. We might all empathize with poor Samuel who is being called and he does not quite know where the voice is coming from.

2. He is hearing voices and he immediately presumes that it is the voice of another human being and not from God.

3. It is only after several tries and waking up poor Eli in the middle of the night that he figures it out and responds: "Speak Lord for your servant is listening."

4. We might identify more with Samuel than with those apostles on the shore of the Sea who are told to follow the Lamb of God and do so without hesitation.

C. We might find the rapidity and unqualified fervor with which the apostles follow our Lord to be...well...unbelievable.

1. Hard to understand.

2. We may presume, therefore, that they did not truly follow him so readily.

a) How was it that they would leave their thriving fishing business to follow the Lord.

b) We may presume that it was more complex than that.

III. What is happening?

A. The reality, however, is that we are also intended to see the difference and that there is something profound happening in their encounter with the Lamb of God.

1. The true and simple encounter with Christ changes them not simply in the superficial way of what they do for a living but in their very being.
2. Christ communicates not simply with his words, "Come and See," but in a way that runs deeper.

B. We may miss the miraculous way that Christ communicates to us, because we are busy listening to all of the human voices and fail to see the divine way that Christ works in our world...not just on the exterior but in the interior.

IV. Andre Frossard

A. The immediacy of following Christ is still found today.

1. There are many stories of people who have encountered the Lamb of God, Christ, and were immediately changed.
2. For example, there is the famous French atheist who had been raised by his mother and father not to believe in God and had embraced their teaching with fervor.
3. However, one day he stopped in a church where the Eucharist was reserved to meet a friend.
4. But, this brief encounter put him on a track which would change his life.

B. "at 5:10 in the morning to look for a friend, I left at a quarter after 5 in the company of a friendship that was not of this earth. Having entered as a skeptic and an atheist...and ever more skeptical and atheistic, indifferent and preoccupied with so many things other than a God to Whom I never even gave a thought even to deny... I was standing by the door, looking around with my eyes for my friend, but did not succeed in finding him... *My gaze passed* from the shadows to the light...from the faithful gathered there, to the nuns, to the altar...and came to rest above the second candle burning to the left of the Cross (unaware that I was standing in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament). And at that pointsuddenly a series of miracles unfolded whose indescribable force shattered in an instant the absurd being that I was, to bring to birth the

amazed child that I had never been..."

C. He would be baptized and convert to Catholicism and become an advocate for the faith.

V. St. Paul speaks of this: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?"

A. We are speaking here not of a superficial reality...not just a multiplication of words.

B. We are speaking of the way that Almighty God has made us.

VI. Yet, it is not magic

A. We must invest ourselves.

B. We cooperate with Christ's Grace and the start of the pilgrimage is not the end.

C. Grace builds on nature.

D. The virtues of Justice, Courage, Prudence and Temperance are deepened by the Grace of Christ and built upon by that Grace.

VII. Raskolnikov

A. We can move away from God as well through no fault of His and our actions do affect our interior...the choices we make to be virtuous people or not also affect our heart and soul.

B. The famous novel, "Crime and Punishment," is an amazing study of how our actions affect us not just in superficial ways but in the core of our being.

C. It is the study of a man named "Raskolinf" who commits a heinous and terrible crime.

1. He commits the crime not for the sake of money.

2. Not for the sake of vengeance.

3. He commits the crime, well, according to him...on principle.
 4. On the principle, that a truly great man is one whose actions are not governed by the same laws that govern your ordinary people. These laws do not apply to him, because...well...he is special.
 5. A truly great man is able to supercede the law and have no guilt about it.
 6. So, he commits the crime thinking that he will prove himself a great man.
- D. The problem, of course, is that he finds himself to be just like the rest of us.
- E. The crime that he committed takes its toll on his mind and soul.
- F. The lesson is that there is a law which transcends any law written on paper, because it is found in the way that God has made us.
1. The reason that murder is wrong is not simply because the government will throw us into prison if we commit that sin. It is because we have failed to follow the more law which is written in our hearts by God.
 2. The reason that theft is wrong is not because we will be arrested if we steal. Theft is wrong because it transgresses a higher law which we have disregarded written in our soul.
 3. The reason that lying is wrong is not just because a lie can damage our reputation. It is because it destroys God's creation.

VIII. This week

- A. So, when we look at this week which is coming upon us when we inaugurate a new President, when our senators and representatives begin their new terms, when our elected officials take office.
- B. We should be praying for them and for ourselves.
- C. We pray for them as we pray for each other, as we pray for our children and our parents, that they be virtuous men and women who follow first and foremost the law that is written on their hearts by God.
- D. The most basic and fundamental of these laws is the right to life.

E. Let us pray for our New President, our senators, our legislators, our governors, our mayors that the first priority be to be not popular people, not famous people, but good, virtuous, just, honest, courageous, prudent, temperate, self-sacrificing, humble and holy people of integrity.

F. THEN, let's pray for ourselves that we will be the same way.

IX. Conclusion

A. Soon, the Lamb of God will be present on this altar... Let us "Come and See" and respond "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

B. Let us listen first and foremost to His voice and behold the wonder of his mystery and then we might say as Frossard, "I left in the company of a friendship that was not of this earth."