



THE Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 18 2021

THE GOSPEL. John 1:35-42

*So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,
and they stayed with him that day.*

Jesus asked,

“What
are you looking for?”

Uh, something.
They weren't sure what.

So they answered with a question:
“Where are you staying?”

“Come and
see.”

They
came and
stayed with him
in his ordinary place.

And
they found
what they had been
seeking.

Christ, take
us too to your space.
We want to spend our time with you.
Let us find your radiance,
right here, right now,
always, in our
everyday
lives.

THE FIRST READING. 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19



The Lord called Samuel again

The Lord called Samuel.

And
he thought
the voice was Eli's.

It was the Lord.

Lord, when you call us out of sleep, or pandemic,
or in the midst of our turmoil,
let us know you well
and help us
to
reply,

“Here I am, Lord!”

THE SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?

Christ was not leaving us;



He made a home within our hearts.

O Holy Spirit,
thank you.

Please
allow us to see the light
that you shine
upon
us

in others.

Reflection: Images of God

What is your image of God? Jesus, the gentle shepherd? God in those first days of creation? Our readings today offer different images of our Trinitarian God; they highlight three ways we experience God's sacred presence.

The first reading offers the image of God who calls. God is calling Samuel and it takes him a while to realize what is happening. We are reminded even if we misunderstand, fall back asleep, or pursue a wrong direction, God continues to patiently call us.

Our second reading is an image of the Spirit who dwells within. Paul says our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit! Even if we turn away or choose sin, he reminds us that the Spirit grounds us.

The Gospel offers the image of Jesus who beckons us to follow. John the Baptist points toward Jesus and says, "Behold the Lamb of God." His disciples are slow to grasp what that means, but they ask Jesus, "Where are you staying?" They need to find out for themselves *who* he is and *what* he does." So, they stay with him and then bring others to follow him as well. This Gospel presents the image of Jesus who beckons us to follow him and be transformed.

These readings are an invitation to begin anew in relating to God. Even if it takes time to recognize God's voice, we are invited to relate to God who calls us to great things, the Spirit who dwells within, and Jesus Christ who invites us to transformation. Like the first disciples, don't limit yourself to another's interpretation of him. Read his stories in the Gospels. Remember how he treated the outcast. Find out who he is for you and let yourself be transformed! Remember, our fundamental

vocation is a call to experience in our lives the unconditional love of God and to bring that experience of love into whatever setting we find ourselves in.

Christina Zakar in US Catholic.

AND A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"To worship the Lord, we first have to "lift up our eyes". In other words, not to let ourselves be imprisoned by those imaginary spectres that stifle hope, not to make our problems and difficulties the centre of our lives. This does not mean denying reality, or deluding ourselves into thinking that all is well. On the contrary, it is a matter of viewing problems and anxieties in a new way, knowing that the Lord is aware of our troubles, attentive to our prayers and not indifferent to the tears we shed... When we lift up our eyes to God, life's problems do not go away, no; instead we feel certain that the Lord grants us the strength to deal with them."

HOMILY JANUARY 6, 2021