

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homily Based on 1 Sam. 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor. 6: 13c-15a, 17-20 & Jn. 1:35-42

“Voice of God... Calls us to walk, into the Footprints of Christ.”

Often times, people think God’s call is only for particular people... like priests and nuns. I think it is after reading or hearing many times... ‘the call of Samuel’ what we heard in today’s first reading... people ask me or to many other priests, “father, when did God called you?” or “when did you hear the Voice of God?” And sometimes, I hear people say that they heard the voice of God while praying before the Blessed Sacrament or in times of meditations and revealed certain matters or comforted of their worries and problems. Yes, certainly in prayer... God speaks to us... but only when we have sufficient time to spent with Him.

Now, in the first reading... Samuael was not praying, we read in the scripture “he was sleeping” when God called him. God personally calls Samuel for his mission. Samuel listens to God saying, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Sam 3: 10). The reading calls us to be open and stay alert to the promptings of the Spirit in our hearts and respond to God with humility.

Anyway, nobody came and called me in the midnight while sleeping. For me it was an inspiration and a gradual realization that I am being called to be a missionary priest. If anyone of you have disappointed saying you have never heard the voice of God, realize that what we heard in all three readings today are the voice of God. And whenever you think you wants to hear the voice of God, please do open the Bible. It is full of Voice of God For each one of us. Read, reflect, and realize the plan and call for you by God.

Dear friends, everyone who believes and is united in Christ through baptism is called to be a disciple of Christ. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us that we belong to God and our body is the temple of God. So, God resides in us, and we are called to offer ourselves completely to the Holy Spirit which we have received from God. God has saved us through the blood of Jesus Christ, and we are called to respond to His love and glorify Him through our life.

In today's Gospel, we can understand the right response to God as we encounter Jesus in our lives. The encounter inspires us to grow in an intimate relationship with Christ, be transformed by his life and follow his footprints everyday of our lives.

This year people complain that... we don't have enough snow, right? You really miss playing in the snow making Snow Man. There was a field covered with freshly fallen snow. A father and a son entered that field. As they walk across the field, the father just went, as normally, walking without paying any particular attention to where he was going. But his son, on the other hand, followed his father directly behind... making a special effort to step in his father's footprints. After the two had crossed the field, the son looked behind and tugged his father to look behind. "Look there, Father", said the boy, "there is only one set of tracks visible in the field, although both of us had walked across it!" The father – who was known to be a very honest and gentle person – smiled and said: "That's so beautiful, my Child! You have taken all the efforts to walk on my footprints!" I wish and pray, that you also do that same, in life!" The Father was inviting his son, to Walk his path of Honesty and Gentleness... in his footprints!

Dear friends, this is the Christian way, our call... Walking the path of Christ... In His Footprints! The Gospel of the Day presents the familiar yet fascinating incident

of the First Disciples of Jesus following Him... And how this First Following would lead them to “Walk the Path of Christ” ... in His Footprints!

The passage begins by stating that “John the Baptist was standing with two of his disciples. And as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God.’ The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.” (Jn 1: 35-37)

One of the very beautiful aspects that we find in this “call narrative” is the fact of how the two disciples give heed to the word of John the Baptist. And to further that call, they would give heed to the invitation of Jesus as well: “Come, and you will see.” (Jn 1: 39)... and they went and stayed with Him.

These two acts of obedience to the voice of John the Baptist and Jesus would re-define their lives! And it would transform their future! This act of obedience was a radical choice they made, Walking the path of Christ and in His Footprints! They were probably not very sure what was coming ahead... They were mostly uncertain, of what would be the implications of “following Christ closely” But they made a choice and that choice would change their lives forever!

Dear friends, as Christians, we are also constantly given this invitation to walk in the path of Christ and in His Footprints! This requires trust in Him and this demands obedience to His Voice.

Very often, the voice of the world makes us to stray our paths but Jesus says: “Follow my footprints” and remain firm in Him! Very often, the comforts offered by the world, makes us lose our values, but Jesus says: “Follow my footprints” and be faithful to be my witness! Very often, the hardships of life, makes us to be

discouraged, but Jesus says: “Follow my footprints” and being focused on me, always be encouraged and hopeful!

Dear friends, life often takes us through the “fields of snow”... the snow of sufferings, the snow of uncertainty, the snow of discouragement and the snow of painful experiences. But let’s take conscious and special efforts “to step in Christ’s Footprints” So that after crossing “such fields of snow” we can say: “Look Lord, there is only one set of tracks visible in the field, although both of us had walked across it!” And we hearing the Lord, with much love, telling us: “That’s so beautiful, my Child!