

January 16, 2021



Dear Parishioners,

The readings this Sunday, the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, are pretty direct! The first we may recognize since we hear it often. It's the call in the Hebrew scriptures, what we refer to as the Old Testament, of Samuel when he is sleeping in the temple. He thinks that Eli, an elderly priest, is calling him, and goes to him, responding to his call. A couple of calls later, after Samuel continues his response to Eli, Eli realizes that it is God who is calling the young man, so he tells him that the next time he hears the voice, he should say, "Speak, for your servant is listening." The gospel relates John the Baptist passing on two of his own disciples to Jesus, referring to him as "the Lamb of God." Andrew, one of the two, then tells his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah."

And as they say, we know "the rest of the story." How about us? If we've had an experience of God being with us - in prayer, in the comfort of a friend, in the beauty of nature - have we shared it with anyone? When someone shares with us the loss of a loved one, are we comfortable expressing some aspect of our faith? If someone, often a parent, a teacher or a spouse, hadn't shared his/her faith with us, would we be believers? The gift we've been given - even if at times it feels weak - is meant to be shared.

Even now, in this time of the pandemic and the seemingly growing division in our country, the Holy Spirit is still with us, still willing and able to guide us and our government leaders if only we are open and ask. With the remembrance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr, we have an example of nonviolence which much of the world has followed and is continuing to follow as they pray and work for more equality and opportunity in our country. The opening prayer of this Sunday's Mass and all the Masses of this week, written in 2010 by bishops of the English-speaking countries is the following:

Almighty, ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May it be so! Peace to you and yours, Sr.Sheral