

A Reflection from Deacon Steve for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we go back to what the Church calls “Ordinary Time.” In a sense, the use of the word “ordinary” is appropriate since we are not in one of those special seasons like Lent, Advent, Easter, or Christmas. But it does not mean that we are missing out on very meaningful messages that we hear from Holy Scripture each week. I like to describe Ordinary Time as those Sundays during the year when we see how Jesus accompanies us on our journeys of faith. Sometimes we find him right by our side. Other times he is leading us. There are still other times when he is behind us — giving that nudge we need to move forward to a more profound level of faith.

St. John in today’s gospel passage tells how John the Baptist nudged Andrew and another of his disciples to follow Jesus, the “Lamb of God.” Their curiosity caused them to ask where he was staying because they wanted to learn more of who Jesus was. Andrew went to get his brother, Simon Peter, and invited him to come along since he “had found the Messiah.” The important thing to consider in this gospel was that Andrew and Peter were ready to *listen* to the message that God was sending them. God sent his message to the Baptist, who relayed it to Andrew. Andrew took God’s message and relayed it to Peter.

Similarly in our first reading, young Samuel heard his name being called and with the help of his mentor, Eli, discerned that it was God calling him. Samuel’s response was, “***Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.***”

Each of us is being called by God. We may hear God’s voice with our ears from the lips of a friend, minister, or loved one who sees our potential to serve God in some special way. Perhaps we will hear God not with our ears, but within our heart, as we read scripture, attend Holy Mass, receive the sacraments, or quietly pray without the distractions of the world. We must always keep ourselves open to the call of the Holy Spirit, no matter the channel through which it comes, so that we can respond, like Samuel, with: “***Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.***”

Deacon Steve Roscher