

[60] SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

FIRST READING

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

3:4-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple
when the Lord called out to him.

“Here I am, “ Samuel answered.
He ran to Eli and said,
“Here I am, sir. What can I do for you?”

Eli replied, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”
So Samuel went back.

Once more the Lord called Samuel’s name.
Samuel got up.
He went to Eli and said,
“Here I am. What can I do for you?”

But Eli told him, “Son, I didn’t call you.
Now go back to sleep.”

Samuel did not realize that the Lord was speaking,
because this was the first time the Lord had spoken to him.
When the Lord spoke a third time that night,
Samuel again went to Eli and said,
“Here I am. What can I do for you?”

Eli now knew that it was the Lord who was speaking to Samuel.
So Eli told him, “Go back to bed.
If someone speaks to you again,
answer, “Lord, I am your servant.
Speak, and I will listen.”
Once again Samuel went back and lay down.

The Lord came and stood beside Samuel.
Then he called out as he had done before, “Samuel! Samuel!”

The boy replied, “Lord, I am your servant.
Speak, and I will listen.”

As Samuel grew up,
The Lord was with him and made everything he said come true.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

40:1 and 3ab, 8 and 11

*R. (8a and 9a) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

I patiently waited, Lord,
for you to hear my prayer.
You listened
and you gave me a new song,
a song of praise to you.

*R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

“I enjoy pleasing you.
Your Law is in my heart.”
You, Lord, never fail
to have pity on me;
your love and faithfulness
always keep me secure.

*R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

ALLELUIA

John 1:41, 17b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

They saw where Jesus lived, and they stayed with him.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

1:35-42

On one occasion John was with two of his followers.

When he saw Jesus walking by,
he said, "Here is the Lamb of God!"

John's two followers heard him,
and they went with Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them,
' he asked, "What do you want?"

They answered, "Rabbi, where do you live?"
The Hebrew word "Rabbi" means "Teacher."

Jesus replied, "Come and see!"
It was already about four o'clock in the afternoon
when they went with him and saw where he lived.
So they stayed on for the rest of the day.

One of the two men who had heard John and had gone with Jesus
was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother and tell him,
"We have found the Messiah!"

The Hebrew word "Messiah" means the same as the Greek word "Christ."

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.
And when Jesus saw him, he said,
"Simon son of John, you will be called Cephas."
This name can be translated as "Peter."
and will praise your Father in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:

Dear God,
Here we are. We have come to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Samuel 3:4-10, 19
Psalm 40:1 and 3ab, 8 and 11
John 1:35-42

Reflection:

Last week was National Vocation Awareness Week. Tomorrow (Jan. 16) we celebrate and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, nicely sandwiched in between those two celebrations we hear readings about God calling us.

In the gospel, we hear the story about Jesus calling the apostles. Close your eyes and pretend that Jesus walks up to you and asks you to come be an apostle. What do you think you would say to Him? God calls us every day. Sometimes God has big projects for us to do, sometimes small ones. Unfortunately, we don't often get to hear a voice talking to us like Samuel did in today's first reading. Usually to hear what God is asking we need to pray, read the scriptures, listen to our feelings, watch what is going on in the world and listen to others. By doing this daily to figure out how God wants us to live now, eventually we will be able to discern which vocation God wants us to live as adults as a single person, married or vowed religious.

Listening to God is not just about figuring-out our lifelong vocation. It is also about finding out how God wants us to live today. Often, what God asks us to do is not easy. Usually it is not the popular thing to do or something that will make a lot of money. It may also cause hardship like when the apostles gave up their jobs and left their families to follow Jesus. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. also listened to God when he saw how people were being mistreated. God wants us to stand-up for people who cannot stand up for themselves. God wants us to help those who need it. Dr. King was eventually killed because he did this but he did it because he knew it was what God wanted him to do.

Discussion:

1. How can you find out what God is calling you to do?
2. What are some daily situations that God may be calling you to become involved?
3. Are the solutions or actions required by those situations easy?
4. How do you feel when you know you are doing the right thing but it is not the popular thing to do?

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Activity: Kente cloth stoles

Preparation: Prepare a strip of white cloth or white paper, 4 inches wide and 3 feet long for each child. Bring examples or pictures of Kente cloth. Have crayons/markers for the children to use to decorate their stoles and safety pins to pin them on the left shoulder of each child.

Background: Explain that part of being able to listen to God is knowing who you are and what is important to you. Things like being kind, fair and honest can help you hear God when you see situations that are unjust or unkind. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explain that the class will be making Kente stoles. Kente is a special cloth that comes from Africa. Show examples or pictures (a good website for pictures is www.africawithin.com/tour/ghana/kente_cloth.html). The colors and patterns in the cloth all symbolize things about the person who wears it. The patterns are made using geometric shapes. Different patterns mean different things.

Some of the different patterns are:

Nyankonton – means “God’s eyebrow (the rainbow)” and symbolizes beauty, gracefulness, creativity, uniqueness.

Akyempem – mean “thousand shields” and symbolizes, strength, bravery and spiritual defensiveness.

Kyeretwie – means :”the lion catcher” and symbolizes courage and leadership.

Wofro Dua Pa A Yepie Wo – means “one who climbs a tree worth climbing gets the help deserved” and symbolizes aspiration, hope, sharing and noble deeds.

Emaa Da – means “it has not happened before” and symbolizes innovation, uniqueness and achievement.

Abusua Ye Dom – means “the extended family is a force” and symbolizes strong family bond, the value of family unity, responsibility and cooperation.

Some of the colors represent:

Red – life and blood

Blue – innocence, peacefulness, harmony

Green – growth and health

Black – unity

Gold – strength and fortune

Yellow – spirituality, preciousness

Pink – female

Purple – earth

White – pure

Ask the children to decorate their stoles using colors, patterns (shapes) (or pictures for the very young children who have not grasped the notion of symbols) that symbolize them, what is important to them and what they think is important to God.

Drape each stole over the left shoulder of the child who made it and safety pin it to their shirt on the shoulder. The stole should hang straight down in front and in back. It should not be worn like a priest’s or deacon’s stole.