

Fr. Rito's Homily

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2018

8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:15 PM Mass (in Spanish)

We are beginning our Ordinary Time in the liturgical season. God gives us the ability to meditate on the gospel of Christ and the events performed by Jesus to show us the goodness and love from the Father. Also, we have the opportunity to be united with the Church in the celebration of many Saints, who through their example, taught us how to live the Gospel of Christ.

Today, the liturgy of the Word of God, invites us to reflect upon our vocation. God personally is calling each one of us with specific vocations, just as he did with Samuel. Samuel was a man of God because, since he was a child, he obeyed God's call. Samuel, was also an example of humbleness, in the service of God.

The Church needs men and women who have Christ in their hearts. God calls us in our life so that we may love, care, and protect the Church. God calls us to fulfill His mission to save the world. The mission of the Gospel of Christ is to serve and love, as Jesus taught us.

The example of the Prophet Samuel encourages us, so that we can respond with our lives to the service of God. If we are obedient and listen to His call, we will discover where our vocation is and place it at the service of the mission of the Gospel and of the Church, as Christ commands us.

John the Baptist showed the vocation and mission of the Son of God: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sin of the world." With this expression John taught us how God has fulfilled His promises in Jesus.

The people of Israel offered a sacrificed lamb, every year, for their sins. The blood was a sign of protection, but really these sacrifices were a sign of what would happen in Christ. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is offered on the Cross as a perfect sacrifice, unique and permanent. Now, we no longer sacrifice lambs for our redemption. Christ did it only once, which will be forever. Jesus offered his life, his body, and his blood as an atonement for our sins. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who is present in our Eucharist: sacrifice of love, redemption, and salvation. Only the Lamb of God has the power to cleanse us from our sins.

We all come to participate in this unique sacrifice that sanctifies us and redeems us. If you believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, never leave Him, because in Him, you and I will find comfort and joy to be happy.



The first disciples recognized Jesus from the word of John, and Jesus invites them to share with Him. Our faith grows when we share our word with Jesus. To know Jesus, it is necessary to have a personal relationship with Him. When Jesus is part of our lives, then we can share his joy with others as the first disciples did. They shared with others their faith and their joy for having found the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Our Christian life is not based on sentiment, but on the experience of faith in Jesus, our Lord. Jesus takes the initiative in calling us to His service, because we have been created in His image and likeness. This is our identity in relationship with God. Each one of us has a human dignity. We belong to God and this commits us to take care of our life and our body, as a temple of His Holy Spirit. God has created us in the perfection of love and in this love, He calls each one of us to work for His Kingdom.

Today, to follow Jesus as His disciples, we need to know Him. God, in the way of faith, placed people who can help us understand His call. Samuel needed Eli in order to understand and respond to the voice of God. Also, the first disciples needed of John to recognize and follow Christ, as the Lamb of God.

Our Christian vocation is a call and gift from God and we need people of God to know and love Him. God calls us by our name, as He did with Samuel, because He loves us and He asks each of us for our collaboration to work for His kingdom. We make the Kingdom of God present, when we help the needy and become united with the sick and with those that are suffering.

God is calling us to be an instrument of His peace and to make of our faith a service that may proclaim the good news of salvation for all. God calls each of us every day to share His love, through the experience of faith. When Jesus calls, His word enters into our hearts and prepares us to follow Him faithfully.

Today, Jesus is calling us to pray for the religious and priestly vocations. Every day, we have less vocations because the noise that we experience daily around us does not allow us to listen or attend to the calls from God. The Church needs your prayers, reflections and advices. Jesus needs your service and waits for you every day, with your response of love.

The Mission of the Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ depends only upon your personal answer. Today, Jesus says to you, "Come and see." Please, do not leave Him waiting for you.

Fr. Rito's Homilies are on our parish website:

www.EmmausParish.org.

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