

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, the first reading for today, reminds us that as Catholics, we are not following a philosophy of life, nor a moral system; this is one of the major differences between other world religions and our Catholic Christian faith. We are following a person: the Second Person of the Trinity made flesh and become a human being! In other words, we have been called, like Samuel, into a personal relationship with God in Jesus, who created us for this relationship and is calling us into His friendship. The way we respond makes all of the difference in our lives, for this personal friendship with God empowers the whole of our lives, who makes us His effective witnesses to the world around us!

In the same way, the two disciples: John and Andrew are seeking the truth and meaning for their lives. When John the Baptist proclaims the Truth that He himself experienced at the Baptism of Jesus, when he heard the words of God the Father pronounced over His Son, and the descent of the Holy Spirit consecrating Jesus to His mission in the World; John shouts out: “Look, there goes the Lamb of God!”, which refers to the Lamb of Passover and the Lamb sacrificed on the Day of Atonement, and the Lambs sacrificed in the Temple on a daily basis for the People of God. This event leads them in curiosity to seek out Jesus, who sees them and asks them: “What are you seeking?” They answer His invitation to “Come and see!” and become His first disciples, who in turn, lead Peter to Jesus and into His friendship and discipleship. Like Andrew, John and Peter, Jesus invites each of us, every day, to come and see where He lives, to become His beloved friends and intimate companions!

Jesus teaches us, unlike any other religion, that life is not a thing to be possessed, nor an abstract system of moral responses, nor a philosophy to be understood; rather, the meaning of life is in our personal relationship with our God in His Person in the Person of Jesus Christ! It is a relationship to be lived out and deepened every day. It is a relationship that depends upon our response, but it is a relationship for which we were created and to which we are invited constantly, regardless of our struggles and sinfulness. It is a relationship that depends upon God’s willingness to offer this relationship and our acceptance of it! Today, He

reminds us that He is not only willing to offer this relationship, but wants us to come and live with Him as His intimate friends! He reminds us today in the 1st reading and the Gospel, that God never ceases to draw us to Himself, because He has created us for this very purpose! When He give Peter a new name, He gives Peter a new Identity; in our friendship with Him, He gives us a new Identity, and this is truly the meaning and purpose of our lives, and will be for all eternity!