

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

The Readings today provide us with the stories of the call to serve God as received by Isaiah, St. Paul, and Peter. Each was called to service in their own peculiar way as determined by God and so the story of how they were called is specific to each of them. Praise God, each of us will one day be able to tell, or have someone else tell, the story of our being called and then acting upon the call.

But there is a commonality to their stories and it is that commonality that we will reflect upon. We do so because by reflection upon the call to service specific to these holy and saintly *'giants in salvation history'* we can find gems of guidance, truth, and inspiration, that can hopefully be used as we discern our specific call to service and then hopefully act upon it to do our part in salvation history- perhaps leading to our salvation or by our actions the salvation of others.

The first commonality is that each man knew their sinful nature and openly acknowledged it. Isaiah says, *'Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips'*, St. Paul says, *'I am the least of the apostles...I persecuted the church of God'*; Peter says, *'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man'*.

We too have to admit our sinful nature. Humility has a large part to play in this admittance. It is so human, so prideful, so selfish, to diminish our degree of sinfulness. It's so easy to say, *'thank you Lord that I am not like.....'*. When in fact we are merely deluding ourselves with empty self-serving platitudes. So, step one is admitting to sin. This is just acceptance of our human nature. *'By the grace of God I am what I am'*, to quote St. Paul in the second reading.

The second commonality is that each listened for that ever present call of God, each had learned to *'be still and know'*. Doubtless, each of them was familiar with the scripture, *'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh'* (Ezek 36:26). All three had steeped themselves in knowledge of God's word and thus had developed a longing for God's presence in their lives. God make known the glory and the love in which we are held by the Divine; each of us is precious to the Lord, each of us has a 'place in the Kingdom, each of us is called to active participation in our faith. We too need to listen, to make time to be in God's presence, and to have an open heart and soul. Then, and only then, will God act; God awaits our invitation.

This leads to the third, a final commonality for this reflection. God, who knows all things, sees all things, knew that Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, had that openness to the spirit of service and that they would listen when called, so God acted. God dramatically called these three to *'follow me'*. Were the three responding to their baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king? Do we really believe that about ourselves? It is true that when we were baptised we were anointed priest, prophet, and king. But do we really, really, believe this to be so? Well, the gospel truth is that God knows this to be true. Therefore we should not be surprised when God calls us to service, calls each of us to admit that *'by the grace of God I am what I am'*. .

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship parish in love with Christ.

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses this Week:
Tues 10 am, Wed 7 pm,
Thurs 7 pm, Fri 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

Marriages:
Six months' notice is required.
A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

February 7, 2016

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Jan 30, 31

Collection	\$1,676.90
Building Fund	10.00
Mass stipends	20.00
Dues	170.00
Certificates	10.00
Votive Candles [2 wks.]	120.10
Cost of Envelopes	8.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 8	No Mass
Feb 9 10 am	Betty Dobbin/Gerry Donavan
Feb 10 7 pm	Ada Myles
Feb 11 7 pm	+ Connolly Family
Feb 12 10 am	Margaret O'Keefe
Feb 13	Ada Myles/ Catherine Dales
Feb 14	Parish Community

LENT BEGINS

Ash Wednesday, Feb 10, marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent. Please try to attend this special Mass. We will distribute blessed ashes at the Mass. The ashes, made by burning last year's palm, marks us as Catholics, children of God.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA

There will be a special collection taken for this charity at the Ash Wednesday Mass. Money collected is used to help poorer parishes and missions by offering them monetary grants. Please be generous.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Thursday Feb 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many healings and miracles are said to have happened at that sacred site. For the 24th year, it is also the DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK. Mass will be at 7 pm.

Why not come to seek healing for yourself or someone you love as we join our prayers for healing with those of the whole world.

PARISH BINGO

The next bingo takes place this Sunday Feb. 7 at 2 pm in the school cafeteria. Please attend this fun event and fund-raiser. If you have been asked for a donation for this game, please try to bring it in before game time.

NOTICE

The priest will be away from Monday Feb 15 until Thursday Mar 3, Fr. Terry Boland has graciously offered to fill-in at our parish. He will celebrate **the Weekend Masses and a Mass each Wednesday evening at 7 pm.**

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

The parish has ordered twenty **NRSV Bibles** (that is the version we use at church) and **Catechisms of the Catholic Church**. Every Catholic home should have these two books- treat them as coffee-table books- always on display and available to be read and/or referenced (out in the open and not elsewhere gathering dust). Each will cost \$20-\$25. If you are interested in buying one for your home (or your children's home), please let us know. BTW, The Bible is large-print.

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

Our four-week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary, Mother of God, and the Rosary has begun. **It takes place on Sunday evenings at 7 pm in the parish house.** Each session will be an hour or so long. It will feature Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min

DVD on Mary's role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included.

APPRECIATION NIGHT FOR OUR LECTORS and EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

This event is scheduled for Friday Feb 12 to begin at 5:30 pm in the parish house. We will share a meal and some social time together as a group. Please come and receive/enjoy this small token of gratitude from your Parish Council and pastor.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Members are reminded that our next meeting is this Monday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. Please attend.

BIBLE STUDY

Due to the Parish Council Meeting, the Bible Study Group will meet Monday afternoon at 3 pm. It will be in the parish house. Please consider joining us for a time of scriptural sharing. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

DIOCESAN MASS OF CHRISM

This Mass will be celebrated at **St. Stephens Parish in Stephenville on Wednesday Mar 16 at 7pm**. We need parish representation, other than the priest, to be present to receive the Blessed Oils. Let us know if you can do this for the parish.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Great news! Tell your friends! Bring them! Our Parish is offering a **Lenten Mission here each evening from Saturday Mar 12 through to Monday Mar 14**. Fr. Bill Pearce, a friend of Fr. Don, will lead this mission. At

this same time, Fr. Don will lead a mission at St. Joseph's in Gander, Fr. Bill's parish. The Mercy of God will be the key-note of both missions. More details will follow.

ANOTHER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

In the meantime, at Stella Maris Parish in Benoit's Cove there will be a **Lenten Mission each evening from Saturday Feb 13 through to Tuesday Feb 16**, Bishop Hundt will lead this Lenten Mission. More details will follow for those interested.

THE WORD AMONG US:

These books are being made available and we **pay for them in US funds**. We ask that you make a contribution of \$5.00 for each copy you take. You may add this to your regular envelope, but please make a note on the envelope to say it is included.

PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.