

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) Homily
Saint William, Champion | January 17, 2021
1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19 | 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 | Jn 1:35-42

Deacon Robert Mintus

This week, we transition back to ordinary life. The Christmas season has come to an end, even for those who celebrate the season in all its entirety. At our home, like many around us, the lights and decorations are being put away for next year. For football fans, all the excitement of college bowl games is over. Even professional football is winding down as the regular season comes to an end and only a handful of playoff games remain. Children are returning to school and heading back to college, and life is going back to the normal routine in many ways.

It is in these quieter times that I find myself able to step back from all the excitement and enjoy a bit of time that I am not quite so rushed. Once all the hectic pace of the holidays has settled down, there is a little more freedom and space to reflect on where I am and where my life is going.

We see that same search for direction in our Gospel today. As John the Baptist sees Jesus walk by, he identifies him as the Lamb of God to two disciples who are nearby. And upon hearing those words, the two begin following Jesus, who asks them, “What are you looking for?”

For the two disciples, they might have answered that they were not looking for anything. Maybe they were not even sure what they were looking for. Perhaps they could have answered that they were just two people who were struggling to get by, struggling to survive. Maybe they might have answered that they were looking for something more than life had offered them. I think that maybe they were not quite sure how to respond. And so, they responded with a question to keep the conversation going – “Where are you staying?”, to which Jesus replied, “Come, and you will see.”

I think most of us all have moments when each of those answers applies for us. We have those moments when we are not exactly sure what we’re looking for. We have the times in our lives when we are just

struggling to get by... those times where life is just about eating and drinking, about buying and getting, about trying to make it through the day or the week, or until things settle down. But then there are the times when we can look into ourselves and realize that we are looking for something more than life appears to offer us. We realize that we are looking for hope.

Over the past months, I do think many of us have gone into that survival mode as we have seen the pandemic take hold over our daily lives, to the point in which many are living in fear and have put their lives on hold, cut off from others, living just from day to day, waiting until the time when normal life comes again.

Today, Jesus asks us the question, "What are you looking for?" And just as he invited the disciples years ago, he offers us the same invitation: "Come, and you will see." But we also see today that as we answer the call, we in turn are called to share that invitation with others, to offer to them hope at a time when it is badly needed.

It is how the Church has grown for over two thousand years, as our ancestors in the faith shared the good news with others around them. We are called to share the good news in just the same way. We are not called to preach, to point out issues, or to get others to convert. We are simply called to ask others what they are looking for, telling them about what we have seen, and inviting them to come and see for themselves. But if we can do that, then we can bring hope to our world, a world that sorely needs it.