

Called by Name to Serve

(Gospel: Jn 1: 35-42)



Calling of Peter and Andrew

Today, the Gospel of John reminds us that we are called to be disciples; we are all called to minister and proclaim God's word to the nonbeliever (to evangelize) and to share that word with our fellow believers (to catechize).

The call to discipleship is not one of revolution but of the retrieval of one of the most important elements in the church's tradition - service.

Service is what "discipleship" is all about. Throughout our life's journey the idea of "service to others" may take on many forms or varied flavors. And there may be a lot of mixed motives in our faithfulness to this ideal. It may be habit, or training, or family tradition. Perhaps, like Eli in our first reading, priests and nuns have been strong influences on our choice; perhaps the example of parents, relatives and friends have been a factor. But when our faith is challenged, when the call to discipleship is really difficult to live up to, we need to have a source to which we can return - time and again

- to be refreshed, renewed and revitalized. As mature, free and responsible adults, we have to have a solid, tested, reasonable base for our faith, for our decisions, for our actions, and for the fundamental values we live by.

The Lord called Samuel by name; he called Simon by name - and gave him a new name. For us - as those called by name in baptism - making the Kingdom of God present in the world is what defines our call to discipleship. Let us find hope amidst life's chaos; Jesus has died, Jesus has risen, Jesus will come again... and again... and again... Jesus is born again every time a person turns away from the negative, sinful and selfish to let His Spirit live anew. For us, there is no other way, no other source.

