

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 16, 1994

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

John 1:35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a situation where paying attention makes a difference.
2. Eli and John the Baptist pointed the way to the Lord for others. Who has helped you to be more attentive to God's presence and action in your life?
3. What are some ways to help others recognize God's call in everyday life?

Diane Banks and Katie Radford ☐

## Discipleship is risky business

### THE GOOD NEWS GOD'S WORD IN EVERYDAY LIVING

By Father Paul Turner



ORDINARY TIME is what we casually left behind in order to enter the thrill of Advent and Christmas. Now it returns, and usually no one complains. Even thrills wear out their welcome. The return to the ordinary lets us settle into the new year before the rigors of Lent begin next month.

Alert readers may note that we begin Ordinary Time not with the first, but the Second Sunday. That's not because *The Catholic Key* didn't publish last week. It's because the feast of today's publication date, the Baptism of the Lord, serves a double function. It ends the Christmas season, and it begins Ordinary Time. If you attend Mass on Monday, Jan. 10, this year, you'll see us squirrel away the purple vestments and haul out the green.

Since this is lectionary cycle B, and since we're leaving Christmas behind, you would expect to get down to business with Mark's gospel. Ordinary Time will guide us through a semi-continuous reading of Mark's entire gospel all year long. However, John wrote today's text. Just as you drop hints to late-night guests who hate to leave your New Year's party, so the liturgy seems to pry off the other evangelists one by one from their clutch on the Sunday gospel before Mark returns to the scene next week. This week we'll hear from John one last time.

THE CALL of Andrew and Peter to follow Jesus recounts one part of John's vocation narrative. John depicts the call to discipleship as a nearly reckless act. No job descriptions. No resumes. No references. No interviews. In the opening few chapters of John's gospel, Jesus' beckoning voice carelessly caroms off Judeans, Galileans, and even Samaritans--those expletive-deleted good-for-nothings whom everyone else made sport of.

Notice how quickly this passage immerses us into the titles of Jesus: Lamb of God, Rabbi, Messiah. Through them, John's first chapter helps us mediate on who this Jesus is.

John the Baptist returns to fulfill his role as witness by proclaiming Jesus as God's passover

lamb, and by nudging two of his own disciples toward him.

The conversation which ensues still lures prospective disciples to Jesus. "What are you looking for?" "Where are you staying?" "Come and see." Coy, seductive, and intimate, this invitation still speaks to the heart of all who want to know Jesus.

Be alert to all the double meanings here in words like "look," "stay," "come" and "see." We're not flipping through a Fodor's guide to cheap hotels. People who look are searching for Christ. People who come are disciples. People who see have faith. And where does Jesus stay? John establishes Jesus as God's presence among us. Remember? "The word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). Those who discover where Jesus lives have found deep faith in him.

This passage earned St. Andrew the Greek title the "Protoclete," since he was the first apostle Jesus called. According to John, bringing Peter on board was Andrew's idea. Andrew introduces him by calling Jesus the Messiah. Already in chapter one, after one brief conversation with Jesus, Andrew is convinced of who he is.

When Jesus meets Simon, he boldly changes his name. "Cephas" (pronounced SEE-fus) comes from the Aramaic word *kepha*, which John translates as *petros* ("rock") in Greek. As a name, it loosely means "Rocky" in English. (The makers of the original *Rocky* movie showed an image of Peter over the opening credits.) Cephas appears again in 1 Cor 1:12, 34:22, 9:5, 15:5, and in Galatians 1:18, 2:9, 2:11, and 2:14. No mystery here; it's Peter.

YOUR REFLECTION on this text may invite you to recall what makes you respond to Jesus' invitation to follow. His personality? His promise? Peer pressure?

Think, too, about other charismatic leaders; for example, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. What enables them to attract followers? What attracts people to your parish community? How are you the body of Christ, as you see Christ in today's gospel?

Some religious organizations sponsor vocation discernment programs called "Come and See" weekends. What qualities do you like to see in your religious leaders?

Thanks to all who have made helpful comments to me about this column. Your support and critiques are encouraging. Please welcome over the next few weeks two other writers: Sr. Mary McGlone, professor at Avila College, and Peg Ekerdt, pastoral minister at St. Elizabeth's Church. I'll be back for the First Sunday of Lent. P.T.

Father Paul Turner is pastor of St. John Francis Regis Parish, Kansas City. ☐

### Daily Scripture Readings

**Baptism of the Lord  
Sunday, January 9**  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Psalms 29:1-4, 9-10  
Acts 10:34-38  
Mark 1:7-11

**Monday, January 10**  
1 Samuel 1:1-8  
Psalms 116:12-19  
Mark 1:14-20

**Tuesday, January 11**  
1 Samuel 1:9-20  
(Ps) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8  
Mark 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 12**  
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20  
Psalms 40:2-5, 7-10  
Mark 1:29-39

**Thursday, January 13**  
1 Samuel 4:1-11  
Psalms 44:10-11, 14-15,  
25-26  
Mark 1:40-45

**Friday, January 14**  
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22  
Psalms 89:16-19  
Mark 2:1-12

**Saturday, January 15**  
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19,  
10:1

Psalms 21:2-7  
Mark 2:13-17

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Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-10  
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,  
17-20  
John 1:35-42

