

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jan. 18, 2009

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42

Beginning of Prayer for Christian Unity Week

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The first reading has me question . . .

How many times does God call me and I don't recognize it as God's call?

How many times does God call me, and 'others' don't recognize or accept it as God calling me?

How many times does God call another and 'I' don't recognize or accept it as God calling them?

Eli eventually recognized and accepted God calling Samuel, and supported and encouraged him.

Do we have the humility and courage to accept God's call? Do we have the faith and trust to recognize and accept God's call in others . . . especially when we don't quite see eye to eye with that other? Can we let go enough of our way of thinking and doing things, and see God working in new ways in us . . . and in others.

From the second reading we know that our bodies are part of the Body of Christ. When we join ourselves to the Lord, we become spiritually one with God. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us. We do not belong to ourselves, but to God . . . to the Body of Christ, and therefore to each other. So we need to take care of our bodies and use them for God's glory.

The Gospel tells us how two of John the Baptist's disciples called Jesus, Rabbi (Teacher). They called Him Teacher before He 'said' a word to them. They called Him Teacher from what they "observed" in Him. We are part of the Body of Christ and therefore are also Teachers.

Does my very 'being' teach/preach God's message?

Do my actions teach/preach God's message?

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel always, when necessary, use words."

There are many days I listen to and believe the negative messages within me, or the negativity around me, and fail to teach . . . fail to preach . . . fail to LIVE God's message . . . fail to live as part of the Body of Christ . . . fail to build up Christ's Body. If I 'really believed' I was part of Christ's Body . . . I would be transformed . . . my teaching, my preaching, my Living, would be transformed. I would BE Love, not only for myself, but for all I come in contact.

As we begin this week of prayer for Christian Unity, may we live the messages from today's readings for ourselves and for the Church:

-recognize God's call in myself

-support and encourage God's call in others

-draw strength and courage from being part of Christ's Body

-and LIVE LOVE . . . the kind of love that Teaches and continues to grow in others.