

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

National Vocation Awareness Week

1 Sam. 3:3B-10,19 ICor. 6:13C-15A, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

Homilist: Sister Mary Mark Schoenstein, O.P.

WHO IS CALLING?

As we observe National Vocation Awareness Week we are challenged to recognize that what we refer to as a "call" to serve God and God's people is, in deed, a personal invitation to respond to a new and deeper relationship and a fuller involvement in God's plan of salvation. God's call comes in many forms and unexpected ways. We can only respond whole-heartedly when we recognize who it is who is calling. The selection from I Samuel for today's readings makes this very clear.

Young Samuel awakens during the night to the call of his name and he goes to Eli in response believing it was he who called. When Eli says: "No, I did not call you, go back to sleep", Samuel is again awakened by the sound of his name. Believing it to be Eli, Samuel goes to him once more and is again told: "I did not call you, Samuel. Go back to sleep." The account then tells us "at that time Samuel was not FAMILIAR with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him yet." When Samuel hears his name called for a third time he runs to Eli in answer, but now Eli understands what is happening and instructs Samuel that if he should hear his name again he should answer: "Speak, LORD, your SERVANT is listening", making clear to Samuel that it is the LORD calling and that he must listen attentively as every good servant does. It is only then that the Lord shapes and forms Samuel into a fit instrument for his mission.

In John's gospel account today we hear Jesus saying to the inquisitive disciples "Come and see ... see where I live, see how I live, see why I live as I do." Only when they sensed that he was a man-of-God and listened attentively to his words and the example of his life with a readiness to respond were they able to be shaped and formed into his chosen apostles.

If we pray for the grace to always recognize God in God's many ways of coming to us, can we be assured that we will hear the words of life and truth that will continue to shape and form us as his faithful companions and servants.