

## HOMILY ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF IN THE ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

### DISCOVERING OUR VOCATION

God created man for different purpose in life. The vocation to which one is called determines to a very great extent, the pattern of life God expects from him/her. God never creates any person without first having a mission prepared for him for the general good of the entire family, the church. The church is like a family, having different organs with various responsibilities. As in the family, various members father, the mother and the children, have different function, so in the church various vocation have various peculiar spiritualities. The active, the contemplatives, the priest, the religious, the married and the single; all have different spirituality given for the building of the entire.

The functions are assigned to these children in the family based on their ability and capability or rather their talent. As a mother or father of those children, he/she already has foreknowledge of the abilities of each of them. A well-organized family will always have things moving smoothly since everyone will be busy in his duty post. None is envious of the other's function since each complements the other. Consider the various people that make up the choir: the male and the female, the old and the young, and even the children. Each of these having different voice and sings that natural voice yet they form one formidable choir with a melodious voice. In the same way our divine sculptor – God – organizes all things in His family – the Church through the various talents called vocation.

No vocation is better than the other just as no talent is better than the other nor is any part in the choir better than the other. On the contrary, as one part of the choir (the soprano, the alto, the tenor or the bass) augments the other, so one talent complements the other talent. Hence, it is useless trying to become the other person we can only be the best of ourselves. God once told St. Catherine of Sienna, that the reason why he did not wish to give anyone all the gifts is so that there will be interdependence of persons. All that is required to be excellent in your own calling is constant listening to the voice of the master, the divine potter and act according His directive.

In the readings of today we discover important characters whose roles are similar especially in discovering vocation: Eli and St. John the Baptist. Each of them was played the role of helping his followers to discover where he belonged that is to discover his proper vocation. Eli had to tell the young Samuel, 'I did not call you' but God. So go back and lie down and that whenever He called again he should just say **'speak Lord for your servant is listening.'** On the other hand, St. John the Baptist told his disciples, while pointing to Jesus **'there is the Lamb of God.'** parents and guardians should like these great men help their children and wards to discover Jesus and consequently their vocation.

Habit is formed through constant repetition of an action. This action is learnt through observations. If the habit formed is a good one it is called virtue, but if it is a bad one it is called vice. Vocation is the same. We began to lack vocation to catholic priesthood of religious life especially in this part of the world when men began to clamor for irresponsible freedom that is freedom without responsibility. Children who have not attained the age of reason can no longer be corrected or reprimanded by the parents or guardians nor are the parents or guardians free to flog their children or wards when they go wrong. Children began to do whatever they liked. The joy that existed in the family that usually flowed from divine love disappeared. Moral behavior became a scarce commodity when human laws decide to take the place of the divine laws, when God was, advertently or inadvertently jettisoned from the polity of the human society. The consequence is what we are experiencing today among our wayward children: drug addiction, sexual promiscuity, abortions, suicide bombing, war in the family, division etc. children now threaten their parents, what use to be a taboo, abortion, homosexuality, adultery, incest etc. have been legalized by many country. It will not be long before people will begin to attend or officiate in a marriage between man/woman and cat, dog or other pets or even between man/woman and wild animals.

It is a fact that living in the temple, Samuel may have been observing his master and mentor, Eli, praying and discharging his other religious function that may have inspired him to desire to be like him. It is not enough to train your children to become successful businessmen/women, renowned politician, military men/women, doctors, engineers etc. These are all excellent, but you must first of all train them to become responsible human beings who are God fearing. They must

learn to embrace the faith you have convincingly accepted. If your child cannot learn how to pray while he is still young he may never learn it again and it is important to know that we are to account for their lives. Children learn the act of piety through observing the pious acts of their parents or wards. Such observation can make one to begin to desire to become a catholic priest or religious.

There will be increase in the vocation to the catholic priesthood if parents will rise up to their responsibilities of bringing up their children properly in the fear of God and in the manner our holy mother church taught us. Drug addictions which is the root of all crimes and violent acts today will reduced to the barest minimum. If parents would rise up to their responsibility by enthroning God in their families and teaching their children not only by words of mouth but also by their exemplary lives of prayer, discipline, honesty justice etc., responsible children would raise and our aged and aging parents would be taken care of. If pious children are raised in our society, and there is increase in the vocation to priestly and religious lives consequently, closed parishes would be revived, more parishes would be created, devout souls would be raised, a lot of conversion would be made, what is more? Selfishness which is the bane of the society today will be a thing of the past.

Above all, if parents and wards were to rise up to their responsibilities of giving their children the necessary spiritual recipe they needed, the evil legislation as will see in our political setting today would stop.

St. Paul reminds us we are not our own that we have been paid for. Meaning that we are slaves therefore, we should live our lives after the mind of our master – Jesus Christ. He himself said that he has been crucified with Christ and that the live he was living was no longer his but Christ living in him (Gal. 2:20). St. Peter revealed that the price of our ransom cost the precious blood of Christ.

It is no longer correct at least for Christians to claim that he has his lives to live since our lives are not ours but Christ's. Whatever we do affect the lives of the other person. Our freedom stops where other people's freedom begin.