

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Reflect on Our Call First Week in Ordinary Time Monday, January 12, 2015 8:15 AM
Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20 (So this is the process of being changed, transformed, letting go of what we think, and letting God fill us.)

The story of Jesus **calling the first apostles** is actually rather extraordinary in a sense that **they follow immediately**. There's no negotiation. There's no questioning. So we have to ask ourselves, well: What led to this? Of course we don't know for sure, but we can imagine that **they were looking for something**. That's part of being human in the truest way, is that we have to be looking for something. We can't be satisfied. **We are not supposed to be satisfied with life as usual**. Today I often meet people whose basic complaint is life as usual isn't satisfying. Well, it isn't supposed to be. You are supposed to be dissatisfied. That's the basis for looking for something else, which is **what the spiritual journey is about. So thank God life is not satisfying**. That's the first thing we could say.

The second is that these fishermen were really taking a very great chance because they abandoned their source of income. So it was really quite an invitation: "Come follow me." So they not only were looking for something that they found in Jesus, not only that, but **they were also willing to depend upon him for whatever they needed**. This is a very practical thing. **Do we depend upon Jesus for what we need?**

So the call of the apostles is a time for us to **reflect on our call**. We have all been baptized into Christ. In fact, it is very clear from the first reading and many readings that it's **God's plan for all people to be incorporated into Christ**. "God spoke in various ways throughout history." Yes, through the prophets, through wise men, through all kinds of different means. But now through Jesus, and it's God's will for everyone to come to God through Jesus, through Christ, through Baptism into his body, we become part of this new supernatural, mystical reality we call the body of Christ. Everyone is invited. But those who

have accepted the invitation should reflect on, well: **How really am I accepting the invitation?**

The message Jesus had starts off with “Repent,” which is really a Greek word, **metanoia meaning change the way you think**. The way we think is really given to us by our culture. So changing the way we think and letting God help us think in new ways, that is quite an exercise. And that’s what is inaugurated here. It’s really an exercise in a whole new way of living. And it means **believing in the good news, which is not in evidence**. So Jesus is beginning with his apostles in this whole transformation of the world. He starts small.

For us to be part of it, **we have to cooperate**. We have to be willing to let go of the way we think that is given to us, the way we are so willing to go along with what we are told in the news media and believe what we read in the papers, as if that’s the truth and forget about the truth that comes from God that they can’t know about. **The news media don’t know about the truth. The truth comes from God**. It comes through Christ, and it’s good news. In order to accept the good news we have to be willing to let go of the bad news that everyone thinks is true. **So this is the process of being changed, transformed, letting go of what we think, and letting God fill us**.