

2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time • B
January 17-18, 2009 • Christ the King

Have you considered how amazing cell phones are these days? My cell phone keeps my schedule and alerts me of up coming appointments. It holds all my addresses. It connects to the internet and gets my email. It can even take pictures and video. Oh, it does something else; it makes and receives phone calls.

When a call comes in, there are some options. If the call is from someone in my address book, I am shown the person's name, and maybe even their photo, for some there is even a distinctive ring. If the person is not in my address book, at least the number usually appears. Either way, when the phone rings, I have a decision to make: do I want to talk, or do I let it go to voicemail?

A call gives each of that option: do we accept the call or not.

This weekend we celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. This is a reminder that all of us, yes each one of us, receive calls from the Lord. Now, don't panic. This doesn't mean that you have to drop everything and head to the nearest seminary or convent — unless that is what you're feeling called to, then go for it, and know that you have our prayers and support!

Today each one of us is invited to listen to the call of Lord that we receive in our lives. That is our vocation. I am afraid that when we hear the word 'vocation,' we only think of priests or those who enter religious life as sisters or brothers. These are certainly vocations, but they aren't the only call that God gives. God calls each one of us personally and individually.

So, if we receive calls from the Lord, the question must be asked: Do we recognize God number and answer? Do we fail to recognize God's number? Or maybe we can't be bothered with answering. Do we let God's call go to voice mail? Are we afraid of what God might ask of us? Could God be asking more that we want to do or give? Would we rather deal with God later? Or if we put God off long enough, maybe we won't have to deal with it at all.

You are called, (Yes, YOU!) You have gifts to share, gifts and talents that no one else can bring to life as well or as fully as you can.

Hear your own voice in these words of John Henry Cardinal Newman.

“God has created me for some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have a mission. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do His work. I will serve Him in my calling.”

Samuel received a call from God. He didn't recognize the number, but with the guidance of Eli, he responds: “Speak Lord, your Servant is listening.” The disciples heard God calling and they followed.

So, how do you know where and how God is calling? The signs are universal: it's what makes you burn, it's what brings you joy, it's what makes life good, it's what gets you up in the morning and sometimes keeps you awake in the night, and, even with the knowledge that it'll never be fully perfect nor without its sufferings, burdens and trials, you really can't see yourself doing any thing else.

In a nutshell, your call is that one thing above the rest that makes you happy and brings life to you and others. Maybe it is being a father, or a mother, or a friend, a Priest or Sister. Maybe you will find it your career. You'll know it simply by finding it -- and in some cases, even now, even if you don't think you know it, somewhere down deep inside, it's already there and maybe just needs a little extra figuring out.

Even if you have already heard the call, and are living it out, our answering days are never really behind us. Each vocation needs its nourishment and renewal.

We need to listen. The phone is ringing. God is calling. What are you going to do about it? Will you answer, let it go to voice mail, or ignore the call?