

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
January 14, 2018

As I write these thoughts and reflect on the First Reading, it is not difficult to hear in your mind's ear Patty Lang singing "Speak Lord, your servant is listening" (You can thank me later for planting that song in your heads).

In our first reading Samuel hears someone call his name. Thinking it was guardian Eli, Samuel said "Here I am. You called me?" Eli answered, "No my son, I did not. Go back to sleep." After falling back to sleep Samuel heard the voice again. Again, he returned to Eli who told Samuel he did not call him and to return to bed. The Lord called out to Samuel once again. He returned to Eli saying "Here I am. You called me?" Eli realized that it was actually the Lord who was calling to the young man. Eli told Samuel "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, speak Lord, your servant is listening!" Samuel went back to bed and fell back to sleep. Soon the Lord called out "Samuel! Samuel!" Remembering what Eli told Samuel he said "Speak, your servant is listening!"

My grandmother used to say going to church doesn't make you a good person any more than parking your car in the garage makes you a mechanic. When I was a child I never really understood what that meant. Later in life I would realize that my grandmother had it right. Sitting in Mass for one hour or more doesn't make you a great Christian. Listening to Father John's homilies, repeating the responsorial or singing every hymn does not make you a better Christian. It is not about that at all. What it is about is hearing the call of God and acting on that call! Like Samuel, we must tell God that we are his servant and we are listening when he calls us by name.

What is YOUR call? Is it to become a Eucharistic minister, perhaps a lector, singing with the choir, working with our children in Share the Word or perhaps being an adult chaperone for our youth's Catholic Heart Work Camp trip. Yes, all of these are great examples of answering God's call. Perhaps it's as simple as becoming a better father, mother, son, daughter, adult or child. Perhaps YOUR call is to simply love your neighbor and show genuine interest in him or her.

To hear God's call, we all must be present in the moment and ready to serve. The next time you are in a waiting area with other people, whether it be in a doctor's office, perhaps while you are getting your oil change or while you are seated at a restaurant, watch what everyone is doing. Chances are everyone's nose is buried in a small screen. My wife can attest that I am probably one of the biggest violators of this as well. We cannot hear God's call, or anyone else's for that matter, if we are consumed with the activities on a smart phone. Can you imagine if Samuel had a smart phone back in 1040 BC? God would still be waiting for Samuel to finish his Tweet. When we allow something or someone to consume us we are shutting out God and those that love us. God wants all of us to love each other and be patient with each other. God wants us to speak less and listen more. God wants us all to pray "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

Sometimes it is the simple things. In this new year we should all enjoy each other, love one another, put down the cell phone during family times and listen. Chances are God's been calling your name for sometime now.

God Bless,

Bob Myers