



Homily for 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 16-17, 2021

Fr. Bob Kabat

Scripture: 1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 John 1:35-42

Welcome to those here or joined us online

Raise your hand if you are a Green Bay Packers fan?

I have a test for you. Name the five starting offensive linemen for the Green Bay Packers? (Pause) Answer is: Billy Turner, Elgton Jenkins, Corey Lindsey, Lucas Patrick and Rick Wagner. One of the key reasons the Packers are in the playoffs have been the flexibility of all their offensive linemen to “second fiddle” for the good of the line and the team, due to injuries that happen in a season.

How they play this weekend will probably determine the outcome of the football game against the Los Angeles Rams. Yet we often don’t know their names. Everyone knows Aaron Rodgers, Davante Adams and Aaron Jones, but they go nowhere without the linemen doing their job.

With President-elect Joe Biden taking office this week, he knows it will depend a lot on his staff to bring our country together, those that play the “second fiddle” roles, which would include all of us as citizens of this country.

No better role model for us on the importance of playing the “second fiddle” role than the Apostle Andrew, who we hear about in the gospel today.

Andrew is never the star so-to-speak. He works behind the scenes for the good of all. We hear of him three times in the gospels: 1) He brings the boy with the 5 loaves and two fish to Jesus, and

Jesus feeds 5,000 people with the boy's gift; 2) He brings a group of inquiring Greeks who want to meet Jesus and 3) today, he runs after his brother Simon to meet Jesus. When Jesus sees Simon, he says, "You are Simon, son of John, you are to be called Cephas – Peter -- meaning Rock.

We are to bring people to Jesus as well. Might be to invite them to Mass here, because they don't attend anywhere or dissatisfied where they are going. Might be inviting others to join us online or actually sending them the YouTube link for the Mass.

All these moves are to be a good "second fiddle" to bring people not to St. Matthew Parish, but to Jesus the reason we have a parish.

These actions and the charity we do behind the scenes is all about bringing people to the Lord, often not by words, but by simple actions that reflect we are followers of the Lord.

It is a reminder of who are we "second fiddle" to; Jesus Christ, the same person Andrew played "second fiddle" to. We are called to be a missionary disciple – no matter our age or present position in life. Let's play "the second fiddle" well – every day for the Lord and one another.

Enjoy the games.

Prayer in Bringing Home the Word