

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2021

Very frequently, when a man or woman celebrates his/her entrance into Vowed life the liturgy uses excerpts from the call of Samuel [1 Samuel 3:3-10]. This reading today records that call for Samuel.

Additionally, The Gospel reading chosen often is from today's call of the Disciples, Andrew and his brother Simon, later named Peter.

During my years here in Denver, during each year I am honored to journey as a Spiritual Director with a Dominican Novice. And of course, in my own experience I am often asked how I determined my vocation, how did I know.

All of us are invited into a vocation; it may be religious life, or ordination. Or it may be the call to the sacrament of Marriage. Notice the call to the Marriage life is the ONLY sacrament. But the question is the same: How did you or I know the direction of that "call". How did you know when to stop and LISTEN?

My conclusion is that each of us must go deep into our hearts and listen there. It does take a quiet mind, perhaps a moment of meditation, a noticing awareness, changing our pace to slow down and recognize God's inner conversation with us. Sometimes God sends signs and messages, but because these are usually interruptions in our day or plans, we quickly pass them up, or become irritated. We must learn to NOTICE that these interruptions may be God's attempt to get our attention. Sometimes the common cold or a short illness or accident, demands that I stop, rest and be alone. No, I'm not wishing that on anyone, especially in these days of the pandemic. But we must stop running away from silence, from the quiet, from GOD. The Spirit of God is patient. It is we who claim we do not have time.