

Called by God to Be His Messengers

The readings for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, present a profound message about God's call and our response to it. The central theme revolves around how God calls ordinary people, sanctifies them, and sends them out as His messengers to bring His light and love to the world.

In the first reading, we encounter the prophet Isaiah's vision of God's glory. Isaiah feels unworthy in the presence of the Lord, saying, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips" (Is 6:5). However, God purifies him by sending an angel to touch his lips with a burning coal, symbolizing cleansing and sanctification. After this, Isaiah responds to God's call with courage: "Here I am; send me!" (Is 6:8).

This passage reminds us that God does not call the perfect but perfects those He calls. Like Isaiah, we may feel inadequate or unworthy, but God equips us with His grace to fulfill His mission.

In the second reading, St. Paul reflects on his own unworthiness, calling himself "the least of the apostles" because of his past persecution of the Church (1 Cor 15:9). Yet, he acknowledges that it is by God's grace that he has become an apostle and has worked tirelessly to spread the Gospel.

Paul's testimony encourages us to trust in God's transformative power. No matter our past mistakes or weaknesses, God's grace can work through us to accomplish great things.

The Gospel recounts the miraculous catch of fish and the calling of Peter, James, and John. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus instructs Peter to "put out into the deep" and lower the nets (Lk 5:4). Despite his doubts, Peter obeys and is astonished by the abundant catch. Overwhelmed, Peter falls at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8). Jesus reassures him, saying, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people" (Lk 5:10).

This story highlights two key aspects of discipleship: trust in Jesus and willingness to follow Him despite our fears and limitations. Peter's encounter with Jesus transforms him from a simple fisherman into a "fisher of men." Similarly, Jesus calls each of us to step out of our comfort zones and trust Him to work through us.

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us to reflect on our own calling as disciples of Christ. Isaiah, Paul, and Peter were ordinary individuals with flaws and doubts. Yet, God called them to extraordinary missions. This reminds us that God calls each of us, regardless of our imperfections, to be His messengers in the world.

Like Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, we may feel unworthy, but God's grace is sufficient. Let us respond with faith and courage, trusting that God will work through us to bring His light

to the world. May we, like Peter, leave everything behind and follow Jesus wholeheartedly, becoming "fishers of people" in our daily lives. Amen!

Fr. Bula