

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Monday, January 11, 2021

-- Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, *who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.* For to which of the angels did God ever say: *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you?* Or again: *I will be a father to him, and he shall be a Son to me?* And again, when he leads the first born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:1, 2, 6, 7, 9

Let all his angels worship him.

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many isles be glad.

Justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne. ***R/.***

The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.
Let all his angels worship him. ***R/.***

Because you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods. ***R/.***

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they left their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Reflection

Then they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:18)

It's baffling. Jesus is walking along the seaside and invites a few men to follow him — and they do. Why? Would you leave your job and family to follow a stranger? This short description of Jesus gathering disciples in today's Gospel may be deceptively simple — it obviously leaves out some details.

Perhaps Simon, Andrew, James, and John already knew Jesus, or at least knew about him. They could have heard him preaching, or maybe they had already spent some time talking with him. Perhaps they were curious about this miracle worker who insisted that the kingdom of God was at hand. Maybe they were looking for a break from their grueling jobs. Following Jesus might have seemed adventurous — a chance to see even more miracles. They could have thought this adventure would be short-term and not a journey that would change their lives forever.

There's one thing we can assume: these four fishermen had no idea what was in store for them. There would be many amazing revelations. But there would also be rejection, misunderstanding, and sacrifice. If they had known all this at the beginning, they might well have stayed in their fishing boats.

Thank God they didn't have the big picture yet! Can you imagine a Church without St. Peter? Or the message that God is love without the story of St. John? It's a good thing that the cost of discipleship unfolded gradually for them and never overshadowed the excitement and joy they first experienced.

Jesus is calling you too. Every day he reaches out to you through your prayer and Scripture reading and through your encounters with people. When you hear that call — especially if it's challenging — remember these four apostles. Remember their faith-filled response.

Remember too who it is you are following: your Savior and Redeemer. His ways may be mysterious and his will may be hard to understand, but he wants nothing more than to bring you into his kingdom. So don't be afraid to leave behind whatever nets may be ensnaring you. Follow him, today and always.

Jesus, help me to hear and answer your call today.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.