

Pastor's Letter

Dear Church Family,

In our second reading for today, St. Paul reminds us that we all have a calling from God to serve him and witness to his goodness and love with all that we are including our bodies. Sometimes, though, it's hard for us to know what it is that God wants us to do. We have sacred Scripture and the teaching of the church to show us how to live a holy life. That's where we start. But God also has a particular calling for each of us to a particular ministry and role in the household of God. How do we discover that?

In both our first reading and our Gospel we have examples of experienced followers of the Lord helping new disciples learn how to listen to God. Eli in our first reading helps the young Samuel recognize and respond to God's call. John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah they have been looking for to two of his followers. For generations the faith has been handed down in this way.

This is one of the reasons that Jesus established his church. We are here to help each other and encourage each other by sharing our own experience and passing on the wisdom that has been shared with us by previous generations. The normal way of being Christian is being part of a community. Even though each of us is called and loved by name as individuals, we all need the support of the family of God.

Without that support it is much easier for us to lose our way. Without accountability to others, it's easier for us to give in to temptation. Without encouragement we might give up in despair. Without others to challenge us to be better, we might get too comfortable with where we are and stop growing in faith, hope and love. And without the wisdom of our spiritual elders, we will make mistakes that we could have avoided.

Take a moment to think about the people in your life who have been good examples to you of how to live the Christian life. Thank God for them. May God bless all those saints, official and unofficial, who have helped set us on the path to following Christ and helped us learn to listen for his voice. And may we be a blessing to others by passing on the faith that we have received.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott