

### ***It's All About Relationship***

Today's readings are rich with a great many things to think about. Paul reminds us that through Baptism we have been joined to Christ. John describes the experience of the call of the first apostles. An invitation extended through time and eternity to us all to "come and see." Samuel's encounter with God reminds us of the challenges of recognizing God's voice in the busyness of our own lives. And the responsorial psalm exhorts us to be present to God, and to give ourselves to His will. All of these themes find their common connection in an abiding relationship with Christ.

### ***Encounter Relationship***

The essential starting point of a relationship with Christ begins with encounter. We are called to be people of encounter. We must encounter Jesus, and through Jesus we must encounter each other. Encounter means allowing ourselves to be interrupted. It means making ourselves available to each other and to Christ... Encounter allows us to seek an answer to life's great question... "What are you looking for?" Encounter is our response to the invitation to "Come and see!" Encounter leads to a deeper relationship... with others, but most importantly it deepens our relationship with Christ

### ***Being A Person For Others.***

To be a person of encounter we must become a person for others. In our Gospel there are two great examples of what it means to be a person for others... John the Baptist and Andrew the Apostle. John the Baptist who we know well shows himself to be a person for others... He denies his own significance... by pointing to Jesus... and by sending those he encounters to Jesus... even his own disciples.

Unfortunately the Scriptures do not give us a great deal of information about the apostle Andrew. But the little we have tells us that he was a man of encounter and a person for others... And as a person for others he shows us some noteworthy qualities. Like John, he was characteristically a man who was prepared to take second place. Again and again he is identified as Peter's brother... He lived joyfully and peacefully in Peter's shadow. He was quite content to play a humble part in the company of the Apostles. What mattered to Andrew the most was to be with Jesus and to serve him as well as he could. He had come to do God's will, and that is why he is the patron saint of all who humbly, loyally, and ungrudgingly work in the background without recognition or fame. And also like John, Andrew is the one who introduces others to Jesus... It is Andrew who brings Peter to Jesus. It is Andrew who brings the boy with five loaves and two fish to Jesus (John 6: 8, 9). This was Andrew's great joy... To bring others to Jesus... He was the man with the missionary heart. Having found for himself the friendship of Jesus, he spent his entire life introducing others to that friendship. Andrew was one who could not and would not keep Jesus to himself. He was a person of encounter and he was the consummate person for others.

### ***What Did Jesus See?***

And what did Jesus see in those people who were brought to him by John and by Andrew? Jesus saw their hopes and their dreams... their troubles and their fears. He looked at them with a gaze that not only sees the superficial things that lie on the surface, but a gaze which reads a man's heart. When Jesus looked at Peter He knew something about Peter that Peter did not know about himself... Jesus knew that Peter would become a man for others... the man who would build his Church.

### ***What Do You See?***

What do we see when we look at ourselves and at each other? Do we see what Jesus sees? The way that Jesus looked at Peter is the same way He

looks at us. He not only sees what we are, he also sees what we can become. He sees not only our actualities... but the possibilities. In Peter Jesus saw more than a fisherman... He saw a rock on which he could build his Church.

It is from this point-of view that he invites us to encounter... To “come and see” ... To linger with him to abide where he stays. He invites us to his altar today, to give our life to Him with the promise that he will make us all we were meant to be. His plan for us is far beyond our wildest imaginings. It is Jesus, and only Jesus who can release the hidden hero that lies dormant in every one of us. It is Jesus, and only Jesus who can answer the question... “What are you looking for?” And today it is Jesus who invites us to come and see.