

Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Last year on the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, I titled the Sunday Reflection that I wrote as; “*The Year of Vision or the Roaring 20’s.*” I remember at the time a number of people wondering what the new year and the new decade would have in store for us as a people and as individuals. It seems natural that a new year and a new decade would cause people to wonder and hope for new possibilities in the world and in an individual’s life. It was obvious to many at the start of last year to ponder the possibilities that the coming year and decade could be like the roaring 1920’s or that it could be a time of vision. I would not think it was obvious to many of us how 2020 would turn out. I would think with any new year or anything new that we are a part of, we might have hopes and dreams of how things will conclude but we do not know for certain what the conclusion will be.

In our Gospel Reading this Sunday taken from the Gospel of John this reading records a statement that St. John the Baptist makes to two of his disciples the day after he baptized Jesus, “*Behold the Lamb of God.*” These five simple words from St. John the Baptist prompted St. Andrew and companion to drop everything and follow Jesus. This led to St. Andrew informing his brother, St. Peter that “*We have found the Messiah, which is translated as Christ.*” From five simple words that St. John the Baptist said to two of his disciples a whole course of events followed in the life of St. Andrew and his brother St. Peter. Five simple words that St. Andrew responded too had and continues to have a profound impact of individuals and the world to this day. The impact will continue to the end of time.

St. Andrew a disciple of St. John the Baptist and one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ, was born between 5 and 10 A.D. in Bethsaida in Galilee. The New Testament states that St. Peter was his brother. Both St. Andrew and St. Peter embraced a profession that was common in their town they were fishermen. In choosing to embrace the words of St. John the Baptist, St. Andrew followed Jesus and discovered He was the Messiah, the Christ. St. Andrew shared this good news with his brother, St. Peter and they both became Apostles. After Jesus dead on the cross and on the third day rose from the dead, St. Andrew spent the next 27 years sharing the good news with the world. Tradition holds that St. Andrew shared the Gospel message in Greece and when he was crucified in Patras, he preached to all the people that passed by for two days. St. Andrew, with his final breath continued to proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ.

There is no way that St. Andrew could have imagined how different his life would be when hearing those five simple words that St. John the Baptist spoke in the year 30 A.D. It is important to note that St. John the Baptist did not tell St. Andrew and companion to follow Jesus when he said, “*Behold the Lamb of God.*” The two disciples of St. John the Baptist where open to the possibility of their lives being transformed with five simple words. The did not allow the moment to pass them by.

As we continue our journey into this new decade, may we make sure that we also do not allow our moment to pass us by. Most people would agree that the year 2020 was a challenging start to a new decade. This challenging start to this decade may provide us with a moment in which we can embrace a new chapter in our lives and an opportunity to be a fuller part of God’s salvific plan for the world. I am sure in the year 30 when St. Andrew heard St. John the Baptist utter those five simple words that forever changed his life, he had no idea how different his life would be from that day forward. With the start of the pandemic, I am sure none of us had any idea how different our lives would be in just one year. With all the external changes in our lives may we make sure that there is a positive internal change. This moment for internal change can happen at any time and in any place, may we just make sure we do not allow the moment for this internal change to pass us by. For this internal change can be what will define our year, this decade, and the rest of our lives.