

REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday, the central theme of the readings is “vocation” as a gift from God to each one of us, a gift that we do not deserve, since before God we are all unworthy, sinners. God is the one who calls, who chooses, asking us for the ability to accept the call he gives us. Before God, we will always be unworthy, small, and poor but he chooses the poor and the weak to confound the rich and the strong, showing that he is the Lord of the Kingdom.

The first reading tells us about the prophet Isaiah and his extraordinary experience of God. God reveals himself to him in an extraordinary, grandiose vision, so that, faced with the grandeur of this vision, the prophet feels unworthy, a sinner, crushed by God's greatness. God then sends his angel to cleanse the prophet's lips, while a voice is heard: “*Whom shall I send?*” The prophet, while recognizing himself as unworthy, gives himself to the Lord: “*Here I am! send me.*”

In the second reading, St. Paul also speaks of his vocation, recognizing that he was not worthy of being called by the Lord, since he had been a persecutor of Christians. God though, in his mercy, chose him, called him, and Paul gave himself to the proclamation of the Gospel with all his strength and enthusiasm.

We also find a similar situation in the Gospel. Jesus Christ climbs into Simon's boat and tells him to cast his nets. Simon Peter, who had been fishing all night and had caught nothing, casts the nets at Jesus' command, and a miraculous catch comes in. Peter realizes that he is standing before the Lord and feels unworthy, a sinner, not deserving to be with Jesus. Then the Master tells him not to be afraid: “*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.*” That unworthy, sinful fisherman will one day set out across the world to bring the message of the Good News to the nations.

God calls; vocation is always a gift from God. He calls the poor, the little ones, the unworthy, the sinners. He calls each of us in our poverty. We pray to God to let us know how to listen to the Lord's call and give ourselves to the mission to which he calls us, and letting God work in us. Let our words be the words of the Lord, bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to the world. Let us not be afraid. Let us not hide in our misery but let God's grace work in us and the Lord make us instruments of his Gospel.

Amen.