

**Homily - Jn 1: 35-42**  
**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**Riverstown/ Sooeey -16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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Albert Schweitzer was a concert pianist in Europe who gave up his career in music to become a doctor and work as a missionary in Africa. Albert Schweitzer writes in his book *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*, “Jesus comes to us as one unknown, as he did long ago to the apostles on the seashore. He speaks to us the same words that he spoke to them: ‘Follow me!’ And to those who accept his invitation, whether they be wise or simple, young or old, he will reveal himself to them in their toils and sufferings. And they shall learn through their own experiences who he is.”

Well, the main theme of the Scripture readings on this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time is Divine vocation: that everyone is called by God to be a witness for Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Yes! To be a witness for Christ by doing something for others with his or her life, using his or her unique gifts and blessings. And we are told that each of us, as a Christian, is personally called to discipleship, which demands an ongoing response of commitment.

In 1934, Albert McMakin, a 24 year old farmer became a Christian. He was so full of enthusiasm that he filled a

truck with people and took them to a meeting to hear about Jesus.

And there was a particular young man who Albert wanted to get to the meeting. And Albert realized that it was very difficult to persuade him, as the youngster didn't seem interested in Christianity. But, eventually, Albert managed to get him by asking him to drive the truck. And when they arrived, Albert's guest decided to go in and found himself, "spellbound, touched and moved" by the teachings he listened to from the Bible. He became aware that he was undergoing a transformation. He went back each night to the meetings to hear more until one night he went forward and gave his life totally to Jesus. Since that day, the young truck driver has spoken to at least 250 million people about Jesus. He was even the spiritual advisor to the last nine Presidents of the United States of America. The young truck driver was of course, Billy Graham!

Well, the first reading of today describes how the Lord called Samuel to His service and how the boy Samuel responded to Him, saying, "*Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.*" And coming to the Gospel, we see John the Baptist presenting two of his disciples, Andrew and John, to Jesus. And here John the Baptist claims that his vocation is to introduce Jesus to them as the "*Lamb of*

*God,*” suggesting Jesus’ vocation to become a sacrificial lamb to atone for our sins. Well, they followed Jesus to His residence, accepting his invitation to “*come and see.*” And, they stayed with Him that day. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus, introducing Jesus to him as the *Messiah*. In short, today’s Gospel describes the call of the first apostles and challenges us to invite others to Christ by our Christian witnessing. And much more, to give Christ to others.

Now, one of Mother Teresa's first assignments was to teach at St. Mary’s School for girls of the Loreto Community in Calcutta. The School of course catered to the wealthy children of the town. But the Loreto Convent where she stayed was close to the slums wherein people were living in utter poverty and misery. The very thought of those poor people always disturbed her and in 1946 Mother Teresa experienced what she called a second vocation or "call within a call." She felt an inner urge to leave the Loreto convent and serve the poorest of the poor lying in the streets. In 1948 the Vatican gave her permission to leave the Sisters of Loreto and to start a new work under the guidance of the Archbishop of Calcutta. On August 17, 1948, she dressed for the first time in a white, blue-bordered sari

and passed through the gates of her beloved Loreto convent to enter the world of the poor. And we know how she lived her entire life for those under privileged sections of the society, for which she is ever remembered.

Well, dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is inviting you and me to follow Him closely. The question is: “Are we able to hear him telling us, “Come and see?”. If we take a look at the response of those first disciples, we see that on receiving the invitation of Jesus, they obeyed him. They went and spent time with him. Yes! They experienced Jesus. And they realized that the answer to their quest is not an ideology, or a philosophy, or even material things, but ‘a person’. And they gave their life to that person as did Mother Theresa and Billy Graham. And they were transformed becoming messengers of that experience. Can we then do the same thing as Christians, as followers of Jesus? May we too encounter Jesus in our lives and may we too have the courage to follow Him and be His witnesses in the world of today. God bless you all, **Amen.**

**Fr. Yashin**