

FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Julius

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



The liturgy this Third Sunday in ordinary time blends last week's Call to Discipleship with today's invitation for interior repentance. Our Lord wants us to leave behind any impediment that would get in the way of that call. Our three readings attest to the profound truth that He is a God summoning us to conversion, not just once but over and over.

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that He guide us in His truth and teach us his paths. How vital is that grace, so that when we are called to fulfill His will, He has already planted the seeds.

In our Second Reading to the early Christians in Corinthian, we listen to St. Paul's great sense of urgency, warning the Christian community against being too rooted in the *things* of this life. Our time is short and "the world in its present form is passing away...", ergo Paul's pre-occupation with our only lasting reality, that of our Eternal Life.

Our Gospel opens us to the poignant conclusion of John's witness, where Jesus swiftly steps into John's teachings to 'repent and believe in the Gospel'. "Metanoia" (in Greek, a profound repentance) means a radical change in one's thinking, of setting new priorities. Do we not see the early disciples immediately abandon their boats and family to follow Jesus? Jesus summons us to reject our trespasses, to even detest those sins and their consequences. With the call of his first disciples – Andrew, Peter, James, and John – Jesus reveals that he wants ordinary people like you and me to share in His mission, to commit ourselves to His plans.

On our recent Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, I had emphasized that every Christian is called by God, both individually and collectively, to continue Jesus' mission of spreading the Good News of God's Kingdom. Since we are all called to a specific vocation – be that of priest, missionary, religious, married, single – each unique vocation endows us with the exceptional capacity to become the very dwelling place for God. As a strong faith community, St. Joseph the Worker fosters each member in their given mission. "Holiness consists simply in doing God's will and being just who God wants us to be."

Joyous Weekend!