

ICCH

International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

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19th January 2014

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - A pg. 951

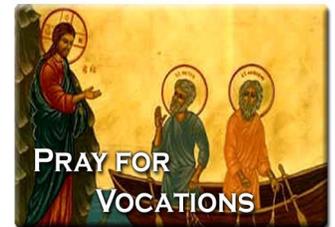
Father John Edosomwan



OUR VOCATION AS CHRISTIANS

Quite often when we hear of the term, “vocation” our minds go to seminarians, sisters, brothers, priests, as if they are the only people called by God. This concept of “vocation” comes from a wrong understanding of the Church. Many still think that the Christian community comprise of two classes of people: one active and the other passive. The first comprising of the priests and their helpers, those who have answered the call of God and must so must do everything for the Church. The other class made of the simple Christians who have not received any “vocation”. Very little is required of them: enough for them to go to Church, to listen when the pastor or the announcer of the word speaks out, to “receive” the sacraments and “in short” to obey.

As Christians, we are all called and therefore have a vocation. Every community and every member of the Christian community has a vocation. We are all called like the Servant, to be light for others and to bring them salvation. We fulfill our mission when we avoid trying to prevail or to dominate others, and when in humility we accept to serve our brothers and sisters in the ministry entrusted to us. Our vocation is a continuation of that of Jesus, whom John the Baptist refers to as the ‘Lamb of God’, that is, one who gives himself up in sacrifice so that others might live.



Out of love for us, the Lord Jesus went into the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist, thus making himself one with sinful humanity. It was evident that he did not make any confession of sin and John admitted that he had no need of his baptism since he was offering a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sin. He had no sin to repent of or be washed away from, but he was identifying himself with sinners all the same. The innocent can share the burdens of the guilty. If he was to be identified with humanity, so much so as to call himself the ‘Son of Man’, then he had to share the guilt of humanity. The object of our Lord’s baptism is the same as the object of his birth, namely, to identify himself with sinful humanity. He is to be numbered with the transgressors.

As Christians, we too are called to immolate ourselves so that others may live. Our actions should speak of our experience of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us carry out our mission of caring for the weak and afflicted, just as Jesus did for us, by serving one another with the love of God.

With all my love and God's blessings - Father John



INTERCESSARY PRAYERS – Please join us in sharing your prayers with our church family. During the time of offering Prayers of the faithful (Intercessory Prayers), please feel free to “Say your prayer aloud” . We want to be able to offer our prayers for those requesting something special. Just speak out – and we will all pray with you.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com