



Our Parish COMMUNITY

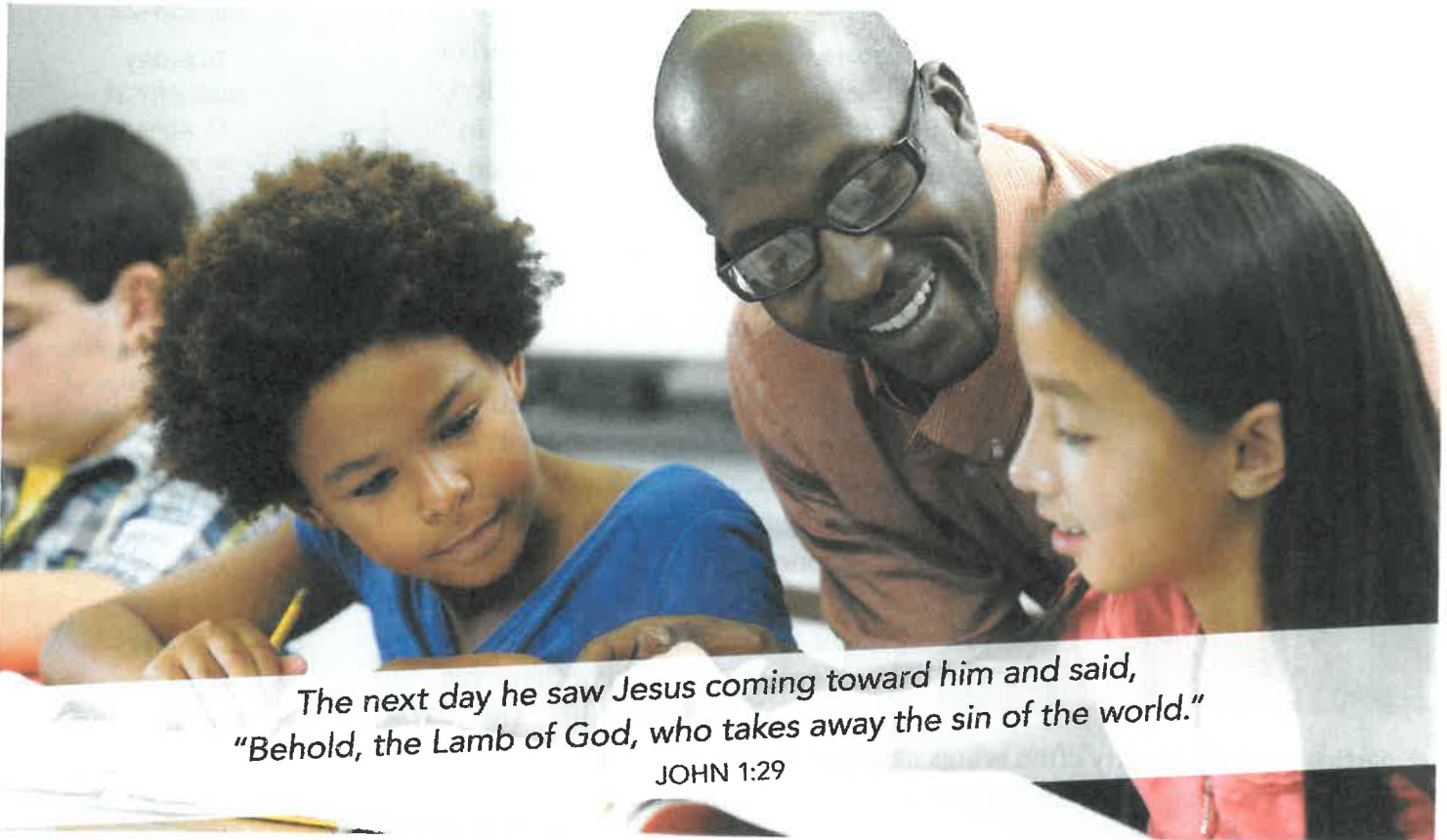
January 19, 2020

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Is 49:3, 5-6

1 Cor 1:1-3

Jn 1:29-34



BY MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

JOHN 1:29

Proud Servants of God

"My servant" is an identification a lot of people will shy away from. A servant seeks to accomplish someone else's goals, and the adjective "my" suggests belonging to another. Yet all of today's readings describe individuals who are proud to be servants—servants of God. What makes this kind of servant something to which all of us can aspire?

As a servant of God, Isaiah became "a light to the nations that [God's] salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). As a servant of God, Paul became "an apostle of Christ Jesus," proclaiming the good news of God's love "to the church of God that is in Corinth." As a servant of God, John the Baptist prepared the way so that Jesus "might be made known to Israel" (John 1:31). These servants sought to accomplish God's goals for the fulfillment of others. It is in such commitment to others that we ourselves are

fulfilled. Ask any parent, lover, or good friend if this is not the case.

We might not want to be the servant of another, but what a privilege it is to be called to be a servant of God, a light to others, to proclaim God's love and make Jesus known. By our baptism, we have all been so called. We enlighten others by the way we live with integrity. The unselfishness of our lives proclaims the good news of Christ Jesus. Authentic Christian living makes him known to the world. That's what it means to be a servant of God.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ How does your life in the home, workplace, or community manifest the love of God for others?
- ★ How do you personally benefit by serving others?

Dear Padre,

A religious community invited me to become a lay associate. What kind of commitment is needed?

When laypeople and ordained ministers are attracted to the *charism* of a religious order (its distinctive ministry, mission, and spirituality), they're often invited by its vowed members to participate as "associates" in their prayer life, community dynamics, and apostolic works. After a period of formation, associates may make degrees of commitment, with varying expectations on those who profess a formal commitment. Associates may

also be given a distinctive sign of their membership to wear during prayer and ministry.

While associates like the Third Order (tertiaries) have partnered with Franciscans, Dominicans, and Carmelites for centuries, other congregations are only now nurturing new forms of collaboration. Usually, this partnership is mutually transformative for the associates and for those in consecrated life: "The

participation of the laity often brings unexpected and rich insights into certain aspects of the charism, leading to a more spiritual interpretation of it and helping to draw from it directions for new activities in the apostolate" (Apostolic Exhortation on Consecrated Life [*Vita Consecrata*], 55).

Partnerships between religious communities and their associates are growing in number, based not on utility or diminished numbers of religious today, but on shared faith and responsibility to our universal baptismal call. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you discern this special invitation to holiness!

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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COURTESY GERALYN NEELY

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

"What about you?" It is significant that these words of the elderly Pope [Leo XIII] were also addressed to a laywoman [Katharine Drexel]. We know that the future of the Church in a rapidly changing society will call, and even now calls, for a much more active engagement on the part of the laity.

—MASS WITH BISHOPS, CLERGY, AND RELIGIOUS OF PENNSYLVANIA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 20
Weekday

1 Sm 15:16–23
Mk 2:18–22

Tuesday

JANUARY 21

St. Agnes,
Virgin and Martyr

1 Sm 16:1–13
Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday

JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection of
Unborn Children

1 Sm 17:32–33, 37,
40–51, Mk 3:1–6

Thursday

JANUARY 23

Weekday

1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7
Mk 3:7–12

Friday

JANUARY 24

St. Francis de Sales,
Bishop and
Doctor of the Church

1 Sm 24:3–21
Mk 3:13–19

Saturday

JANUARY 25

Conversion of
St. Paul, Apostle
Acts 22:3–16 or
Acts 9:1–22

Mk 16:15–18

Sunday

JANUARY 26

Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Is 8:23–9:3
1 Cor 1:10–13, 17
Mt 4:12–23
or 4:12–17