



2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time YEAR A – January 19, 2020

Father Mark Link tells an interesting story. It's about Henry III of Bavaria. He was a God-fearing king, but the demands of being a ruler did not leave him much time for spiritual growth or development. He felt that he did not have enough time for prayer. There wasn't enough time for all the things that make one a great saint.

One day he got so fed up with being a king that he went to the Prior of the local monastery and asked to be admitted as a monk for the rest of his life. The Prior said to him, "Your Majesty, do you understand that life here in the abbey is one of strict obedience? That will be very hard for you because you have been a king for a long time."

"I understand," said Henry. "The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, Christ will lead you and you will lead me."

In that case said the Prior, "I will tell you what to do. Go back to your throne and serve your God and your people faithfully. That is the place where God has put you. He has not put you in this monastery. That is the place you can become a saint."

King Henry returned to his throne. He ruled his people with great compassion and with the fear of God. He became a saintly king.

In today's Second Reading (I Corinthians 1:1-3), Saint Paul reminds us that we are all "called to be saints". Like King Henry, we sometimes believe that we need to run away from the demands of family life or our profession and escape to a monastery, or a convent, or a desert, or a new place in life, where it will be easier to become a saint.

But, as we learn from the wise counsel of the Abbot of the monastery, God expects us to become saints in the concrete situations of our personal, family, business or professional lives.

Wherever you are, whether you're married, or single, or divorced, raising children or finished with that part of your life, earning a large income or a small one, or no income at all - You have the capacity to become a great saint. We all do.

It's normal to think the grass is greener on the other side. The multimedia world we live in today makes that more of a problem for some people than it was for folks in days gone by. But it doesn't have to be a problem for us. Focus!

For a few moments in silence, reflect on your goals in life. Do they include becoming a great saint? Do you know how to do that?

