

**01.04.2019 – First Friday of the Month – Christmas Weekday –
“Pointing towards Jesus”**

I Jn 3:7-10

Jn 1:35-42

In our daily life, we might be able to think of people in our lives who pointed us in a direction that proved to be very significant for us. Sometimes we only discover much later that something we said or did made a huge difference for the better to someone.

Today’s gospel reading suggests that John the Baptist was that kind of significant person for others. John the Baptist was so striking a person that other people came to him and some became his followers. Yet, in today’s gospel reading we find John directing his own followers towards Jesus. The words he spoke to them, ‘Look, there is the Lamb of God’ would have a profound impact on their lives. Because of what John said, some of his own disciples became disciples of Jesus and their lives would be changed forever because of this. There was a great generosity of spirit in John. He did not try to hold on to his followers; he was prepared to direct them towards someone greater than himself.

He is a wonderful example of a non-possessive, self-emptying love for others. It is the kind of love we are all called to, a love that works for the good of the other, a love that is ready to point others in a direction that is good for them, even when that entails a painful loss for ourselves.

Secondly, the opening words that Jesus speaks in each of the four gospels differ from each other. In John’s gospel the opening words of Jesus, take the form of the question that we find in this morning’s gospel reading, ‘What do you want?’ Jesus addresses this question to the two disciples of John the Baptist who had started to follow him. Jesus asks many questions in the course of the gospels and they are often worth pondering. The beginning of a new year is an especially appropriate time to hear Jesus’ question, ‘What do you want?’ as addressed to each of us personally. Jesus’ second set of words in John’s gospel, again addressed

to the disciples of John the Baptist, take the form of an invitation, ‘Come and see’. The question and the invitation very much go together. At the beginning of the New Year, we are being invited to get in touch with our deepest desire to see the Lord, to grow in our relationship with him so that we come to see and know him as he sees and knows us. This morning we might allow both the question and the invitation of Jesus to resonate within us as we set out into a new year.

Reflect, today, upon those who are in your life. Do you seek their attention for your own selfish sake? Or do you rejoice in the many opportunities you have to point them to Jesus? By pointing others to our Lord, you will be satisfied beyond any selfishness and will be rewarded beyond measure.

Let us pray:

Lord, help me to ponder on “what do I want?” and to accept your invitation to “come and see”. Thus, help me to constantly look for ways to point those in my life to you. Help me to be selfless and sacrificial at all times. Help me to realize that love is all about you and is all about helping others come to know you and follow you. When that requires sacrifice on my part, help me to embrace that sacrifice with wholehearted joy and zeal. **Jesus, I trust in you**