

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



January 19, 2014

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 64

Gospel [in 1:29-34](#)

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Spiritual Reflection:

John the Baptizer urges us to "switch off" the busyness of our lives and to realize that the Lamb of God is in our midst in every act of selfless generosity and humble compassion. The Spirit of God, like the timeless music of Mozart, brings us together despite our differences and divisions as God's children. Everyone of us - of every profession and age group, possessing every talent, skill and ability - has been called, as the Baptizer was called, to point to Christ, the Lamb of God, dwelling among us and walking with us in our doubts, our hurts, our fears. John declared his witness in preaching and baptizing at the Jordan; our witness can be declared in less vocal but no less effective vehicles: in our unfailing compassion for others, in our uncompromising moral and ethical convictions, in our everyday sense of joy and purpose.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What things do you need to switch off in order to grow closer to God?
2. Have you missed opportunities to grow in your faith?
3. Would you have followed Jesus?
4. Where do you proclaim the Gospel?
5. How does the Spirit effect your life?