

Homily for January 16, 2000  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B

By Father Charles Bowes

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19  
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20  
John 1:35-42

## *Dare we come and see the God Jesus wishes to display?*

St. John's gospel is radically different in how it portrays Jesus' call of his disciples. In the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus calls and the disciples follow. But in John...in John's gospel, instead of a simple invitation to follow, we find an underlying sense of inquiry on the part of the disciples.

A kind of dialog is set up in which the disciples and Jesus come to an understanding of what this search for God is all about: "What are you looking for?" Jesus asks.

"Where are you staying?" ask the disciples.

"Come, and you will see," says Jesus. So they went and saw and stayed that whole day. It was as if Jesus was saying, "Let's get together and figure this whole thing out – this business of life and God and meaning." It's as if Jesus didn't have it all worked out but that somehow the God He believed in would be there in their midst when the questions were asked.

That's what our parish retreat is all about...an invitation to come and see...to abide awhile with Jesus as God's good agent.

To hear God's word, all that is needed is openness... the kind of openness Samuel prayed for in 1 Samuel chapter 3: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

That's our prayer today as we have the good fortune to hear from a parishioner who has made our parish retreat and found it helpful. I invite Mrs. Klich, our pastoral associate, to invite this witness.

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