

Homily. 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.B. 16/17 January 2021.

What strikes me about this gospel is the forthright witness that the Baptist gave to Jesus and his complete absence of ego and selfishness. Imagine the scene: John had been baptising and preparing people for the coming of the One sent by God. When John finally saw Jesus he testified that He was indeed 'the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world' adding that He'd seen the Spirit come down upon Jesus like a dove.

The very next day occurred that we've just heard. Jesus passed by and once again John pointed Him out to his own disciples saying, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God.' Upon hearing this two of John's followers left him and began walking after Jesus. Asking them what they wanted and finding out that they desired to see where He was living Jesus invited them to 'Come and see.' This they did spending the evening in His company. Andrew, who was one of them, went early the next morning to tell his brother Simon Peter that they had found the Messiah, the Christ, and then brought Peter to Jesus who renamed him 'Rock.'

In all of this, even though John the Baptist was losing both influence and followers, he never spared a thought for himself. He remained totally and absolutely focused on serving Jesus, even helping his closest friends identify and follow the Lord. Some did stick by John, but the best left him so as to walk, live with and learn from their new Teacher.

In the end surely this what we're trying to do in our homes and families, in our schools and colleges and in our parishes and churches. We're trying to help others find and focus on the Lord and Christ who is the Lamb of

God, and not on us who serve Him. Of course, we have to deal with our egos and feelings in all of this as did the Baptist, so that the attention of others might pass through us until it gets clearly focused on the One who alone can take away the sin of the world. Our own testifying and witnessing through our words, deeds and way of life, our own ability to win people, over can never become all about us. Rather, it must be about helping people to find and come to live their lives in the Lord's company.

In the 2nd reading St. Paul says that our bodies, that is our entire selves, are not our own property. Now, we belong to the Lord for He has bought and paid for us with great sacrifice and the out-pouring of His love. We've got to understand ourselves to be members and parts of the body of Christ, living temples of the Holy Spirit which we have received from God. It's this understanding that allows us to gather here as the Lord's body empowering us to pray in Jesus Christ to God, offering up ourselves to our Father of all. It's this vision of ourselves that makes us able to do as the Baptist did; live every day by faith with servant hearts and minds focused on what God wills for others, not what we want for ourselves.

This is the source of our unity, the generous Spirit of God's love and kindness nourishing us here. It's given to us so that we can be in communion, united in mind and heart, pointing out and leading others to live with the Lord who saves and frees the whole world.