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## Sunday, January 14, 2018 – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3<sup>b</sup>-10, 19 | Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 | 1 Corinthians 6:13<sup>c</sup>-15<sup>a</sup>, 17-20 | John 1:35-42

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### GLANCING THOUGHTS

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In the First Reading, Samuel, who was still young, was waked up by hearing his name called in the night. He thought that the person calling him was Eli, the old priest whom Samuel served. But Samuel was wrong in thinking this. It was the Lord calling.

It took three times of God calling before the experienced old priest Eli tumbled to the fact that it was God who was calling Samuel. It took four times of God calling before Samuel finally answered by saying, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

Who would believe this story? Wouldn't you suppose that if God called you, you would know something very special had happened? Who would believe that God could call you and you wouldn't recognize that you were having a wild, spooky, religious experience? Who would believe that you could get the voice of God confused with the voice of the old guy in the neighboring room?

The answer is 'Eli.' That is, in the story, it is the wise old priest who believes these things. It is Eli who understands that you can be in direct contact with God and still not know that it is God who is talking to you.

But if God's voice can be confused with some ordinary voice, how does Eli know, how does Samuel know, how does anyone know that it is God calling?

The answer is that you can't know until you are willing to listen. God doesn't force monologues on the unwilling. He invites to conversation. When Samuel is ready to tell God that he is willing to listen, then the real connection between God and Samuel begins.

The connection that starts with that willingness of Samuel grows into a friendship that is rightly described this way: the Lord was with Samuel. At that point, no one at all could miss the fact that it was God who had called Samuel.

And so here is one moral of the story. The voice of God can be anywhere, in any guise. It isn't thunder and lightening or extraordinary psychic happenings that connect a person to God. Rather, it is the willingness to listen, to trust and obey, that makes the Lord known.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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- Does God always call at the perfect time? Is there sometimes confusion in your life when God calls? It took Samuel three times to get it. Do you always recognize God's call right away?
- St. Paul asks, "do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you"? Are you always aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit? Give some reasons how you can show reverence for the people in your life.
- Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you looking for"? How would you answer that question? Then there was a second loaded question: "Where are you staying"? This could be restated, "Where can we spend time with you?" When the disciples took time with Jesus, did they find what they were looking for, even if just by instinct? Will this work for you?

### FROM POPE FRANCIS

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That is why we tell everyone: "*Come and see!*" In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a *testimony to unconditional and faithful love*: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast. ... "*Come and see.*" Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

~Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi Message, Easter 2014

### LIVING THE READINGS

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- Who are the 'Eli's' in your life that point out the 'voice of God' in your life? In what ways are you being called to point out God's presence in the world today?
- Take time this week to 'take stock' of your temple – in what ways have you glorified God in your body? How have you fallen short of glorifying God? What would a life that glorifies the 'temple of the Holy Spirit within you' look like? Who/what are the examples in society today that treats the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit?
- Be an 'Andrew' to somebody this week! If given the opportunity, mention how God is present in the lives of others and in society.