

Homily for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have finished celebrating Christmas, now it seems that calm comes; there are no more parties or family reunions or gifts. The Christmas tree is removed and the colored lights. Everything is apparently empty and clean. We return to the routine of work and school, everything is in beautiful pictures and beautiful memories.

However, the joy of receiving Christ is not over, Christ was not only the joyful announcement, but He calls to live the best experience of love and personal encounter. That is, today the Word of God invites us to discover the call to be a good disciple, to be part of his body, which is the Church.

Samuel, Andrew and John are called to be servants and disciples, they needed the guidance to listen and recognize that God was calling them, they heard your voice and responded: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." Here begins the path of obedience and commitment to be part of the Church. Obedience and commitment are the instruments we need to respond to God's call. Obedience is knowing how to be attentive to the voice and respond immediately, when someone calls you in the instant answer, because when someone calls you and you answer when you want it is because you do not care who is calling you or the purpose for which you are calling.

In the history of the Church there have been many people who are called by God, but out of fear, indifference, interest, carelessness does not respond and the opportunity to be a faithful disciple of Christ is lost.

I remember many people who are married, who are grandparents or single people. And they tell me: Father, When I was younger I wanted to be a priest or religious or missionary, but I better get married and now I'm not happy.

They are people who in their hearts heard the call of God but because they were afraid or not interested, they took another path, but that was not the way that God had in their mind. That is why, when we are young, we work with discernment, which means discovering in the light of faith and reason, the call of God, to live in obedience and commitment. Many people want to get married but they do not like to commit, many people want to be priests or religious and do not like to pray, many people want to live single but they are behind the married ones.

Then: how can we live as God commands and according to his will, but also according to our virtues? Only by listening to the voice of God, reflecting or discerning and

responding. But always with a lot of humility, obedience and commitment. God calls you to be part of his body to unite intimately with him, through a full and happy life. God does not want bitter, foolish or selfish, who are always fighting for everything, who are frustrated by what they wanted to be but decided otherwise. God calls to be happy and faithful marriages, committed priests, and single person. God calls to be disciples of his gospel and to announce with the Word and the testimony that it is worthwhile responding to the vocation or call of God.

Let us pray in this holy mass for married couples and consecrated persons to be always humble, obedient and faithful to their vocation. And always answer: "Here I am, Lord, to do your will."