

The Deacons Bench

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ,

I was reminded this past week that things don't always stay the same, things change. I came home from work and went to put my coffee cup on the counter next to our small waste container and noticed it was on the opposite side of the sink. So being the thoughtful husband, I put it back where it has been for 23 years. Later that afternoon I again noticed the container had mysteriously moved again. Well as I picked it up to move it, my wife yelled-stop, what are you doing? I replied that I was putting it back where it had always been, and this is when she informed me that she had changed things around and that – change is good.

While I have adapted very quickly to this small kitchen change there are some major changes life presents us that are very difficult to adapt to. We see in our readings today God asking for life changing commitments. In the first reading God asks Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh to announce His message to the people. The first time God asked this of Jonah, Jonah fled, got caught in a violent storm at sea, was thrown overboard, swallowed by a fish for three days, and finally repented and submitted to God's will. Talk about life changing moments.

Similarly, in the Gospel, we see Jesus calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him. These men were fishermen, probably the only thing they had ever done and known, were called by Christ to be fishers of Men. They trusted, and followed Christ's call, again a very big life changing moment.

Thinking back on our lives there may have been times when we were asked by someone to help grow God's kingdom. It could have been something like helping usher, being a lector, greeter, or a Eucharist Minister. It could have even been to consider a religious vocation, and we refused the offer because we didn't have the time, we weren't smart enough, or even because we were afraid of what others might say about us. The Apostles in today's Gospel left their jobs, their family business, and their families to follow Christ into a life they had no idea of what was to come.

The Bible is full of stories of God telling us to **“Be Not Afraid”**, to trust in Him. Remember: **“God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies those He calls.”**

On the flip side, we may be itching to help but have never been asked. So today I am going to do the asking-to those who have been asked before, and to those who have never been asked, and everyone in between, Please come and participate in the Huron County March for Life-today, Sunday Jan. 21. We are assembling between 2:15 – 2:40 at St. Paul Convocation Center in Norwalk. There will be a short presentation at 2:40 followed by the walk at 3:00 to the Huron County Courthouse. You should be on your way home around 3: 20 or so. If you cannot make it, please pray fro an end to abortion today during the 3:00 hour, the hour of mercy.

Thank you for answering this call today.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Dave

P. S. I love the change of seasons and yes even winter. Where else but in Northern Ohio can we see 5 degree temperatures one day and the next day 60? Surely not in India. Fr. Gilbert doesn't know what he's missing.