



# Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Sunday, January 17, 2021*

### Dear Parishioners,

Most of the time, I had the positive experience of people responding to my request, be for volunteering or any other favour that I proposed. That creates a good feeling to continue with good works. Today's scriptures are about call and the response people gives.

Samuel was a boy serving in the temple. He was at the service of Priests and other needs of the temple. We could say he was in divine presence. In Samuel, we don't see any pressure or artificial behaviour, rather an honest and sincere response to call of service. In today's episode in the first reading, he is called by name and he is called repeatedly. He does not perceive it as divine intervention. He sees it as ordinary call from Eli, the temple priest. Eli, the man of God was able to discern that God was calling him. Samuel was called by his name. God knows each of us personally, as the prophet says, "I have called you by name", "your names are written on the palms of my hands!" We are forever in the mind and heart of God. Samuel stands for all people who are simple, sincere and honest to God and for one another. I strongly believe, God calls all of us by name at all times. Samuel recognized this call as divine calling only when he submitted to God. only then he was able to discover his true- identity. Only when we submit to divine will, we will know our true identity. Only when Mary said, "Thy will be done", she became the Mother of God. Jesus invites us to pray in the same way in our intimacy with God "your will be done on earth as in heaven." Today's responsorial psalm promptly respond to this divine call "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

In the Gospel text, St. John the Baptist looking at Jesus exclaims as, "Look here is the Lamb of God." It is imperative therefore, one need to be shown, in order to have the experience of beholding the Lamb of God. When the two disciples had fellowship with Jesus, they could not keep for themselves. As today's Gospel relates, "we have found the Messiah."

Dear parishioners, God knows each one of you, he calls everyone of you. When you are able to discern this call, you will discover your true identity. This will enable you as the book of Hebrews (4:1-15,11) says, to enter into rest. Until that happens, like St. Augustine you will be restless. Once you enter into this rest, you will share that experience with others, you become the messenger.

Have this divine encounter and be at rest and be a messenger.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Rev. John Alex Pinto OCD**

Pastor