

The readings for this Sunday seem to emphasize the call of the Lord and the response of those called.

In the first reading, Isaiah heard when the Lord was saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah responds "Hear I am...send me."

Paul claims he is "...the least of the Apostles...because I persecuted the Church of God. But, by the grace of God, I am what I am."

Peter, James and John were astonished at the enormous amount of fish they caught. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men." So, "they left everything and followed Him."

Each of us has a calling a reason, a purpose for our God-given existence. Ultimately I would say we exist to know, love and serve God as fully as we possibly can.

We believe we know God to some extent in so far as He created us and keeps us in existence through His merciful love. Do we continuously try to increase our knowledge through reading Scripture and reflecting on all God's workings in our salvation history? Do we try to know and understand Jesus better through the reading of the Gospels with sufficient time for reflection? It takes an effort to grow in the knowledge of God but we have the means and the time to do it. Do we use the time and means available?

The more we grow in the knowledge of God, the more we will grow in loving God.

It is certainly perplexing to love someone whom we have never seen. So Jesus has given us the simple means to do so. He said, "...the second (commandment) is like the first – live your neighbor as yourself." By adding this to the first and greatest commandment, I sincerely believe that Jesus is telling us that our love and service to our neighbor is our love and service to God Himself.

This is confirmed in the letter to the Galatians. "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (5:14)

The entire reason for our existence is to serve God. And that can only be accomplished tangibly by serving our neighbor – serving others.

How well do we know, love and serve God?

How well are we fulfilling our calling – the entire reason for our existence?