

SEGMENT NO 2

THEME: *THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP*

“Prompted by the Holy Spirit, the Church must walk the same road which Christ walked, and the Church means all of us, joined together like a body receiving its life-giving influence from the Lord Jesus.”

Pope John Paul II “Ecclesia in Oceania” #10

CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER: As for the Order Prayers

FOCUS: *The call and response of the Disciple*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

1. **What is a disciple?** Jesus said, “*Follow Me*” (Matthew 4:19; 9:9). Jesus did not mean that they should just physically follow Him on the road, as we really can’t do that now. Rather, this is a call to be set apart, challenged, and taught so we see and adhere to the call and mission Christ gives us. The word “disciple” literally means someone who pledges to be a “learner.” Moreover, it is someone who follows another’s teaching, and adheres to it. It is a commitment and a process to undertake the learning, and, as a Christian, a yearning to imitate Jesus!

2. **Becoming a disciple** of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

This Christ-centered way of living has its beginning in Baptism, the sacrament of faith. As Vatican II remarks, all Christians are “bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech,” that new life of faith which begins in Baptism and is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. (Ad Gentes, no. 11) Faith joins individuals and the community of Jesus’ followers in intimacy with their Lord and leads them to live as his disciples. Union with Christ gives rise to a sense of solidarity and common cause between the disciples and the Lord and also among the disciples themselves.

Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians; it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion. (SADR pg 27)

Allow a brief time for quiet reflection on the above words then the Word of God is read.

WORD OF GOD



From the Gospel of John & the Gospel of Matthew

The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully

The First Disciples


The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and

they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). (John 1:35 – 42)

Brief silence between Readings

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. (Matthew 4:18 – 22)

 *For the next five minutes silently reflect on all the texts, selecting and underlining significant points.*

THE SHARING -*Now bring your insights and reflection into discussion of the following: (10 mins)*

- ❖ What is your definition of a disciple?
- ❖ Where have you seen true discipleship at work?
- ❖ How can/do you embrace what discipleship means and apply it to your life?

CONCLUSION

Leader: As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The meeting proceeds

CLOSING PRAYERS: As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.