

JANUARY 15, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6

PSALM 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3

JOHN 1:29-34

REFLECTION

Have you ever had to testify to someone about something? Usually when we are called or asked to testify to something, we have some direct knowledge and understanding about what it is that we are testifying about. In a court case, a witness who is called to the stand is usually someone who either directly saw what happened or can speak to the character of the defendant or plaintiff. This is called a character witness. In today's Gospel reading from John, John the Baptist testifies to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Two times John mentions that he "did not know" Jesus (see verses 31 and 33). Yet John testifies to who Jesus is for a couple of reasons. First, John somehow knows that he is preparing the way for the Lord. Second, John testifies that he witnessed God's revelation—the Holy Spirit—descend upon Jesus. This profound experience leads John to state, unabashedly, that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who will go forth to baptize with the Holy Spirit. Even though John the Baptist did not know Jesus, he still testifies to the power of God's love in sending forth the Son to begin his earthly ministry.



"TESTIFY"
AVALON

ACTION

Go out and share with someone else about who Jesus is to you. Share a testimony about what it has meant to be a Christian in your life. Don't be afraid to go out and live your faith publicly. Far too often, we end up being too timid in terms of sharing our faith with others. I know that I have often shied away from boldly expressing my faith. Take a chance and go out and speak boldly, just as John the Baptist did in his day.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Who is Jesus for you? How has your life been impacted today, some two thousand years after the man Jesus walked the streets of Palestine? Have there been times in your life in which you have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit? Reflect on these times.