

What is our Goal? What is our mission?

In our first reading we find that Samuel is summoned by God, not Eli. Samuel was the child that was promised to the barren woman Hannah. In gratitude, she brought him to the temple when he was a boy to serve the Lord under the guidance of the high priest Eli. Eli is getting up in years and is nearly blind, and Samuel attended to Eli's needs as part of his service in the temple. Twice Samuel wakes up Eli thinking that Eli is calling him.....Nope....God was calling Samuel. Because prophecy and divine revelation were not common in Samuel's day, neither Eli or Samuel recognized that God was speaking to Samuel. Eli figured that out after the second time he got woke up and instructed Samuel to say "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening". And guess what, Samuel answered God's call.

What is our goal....what is our mission? Are we able to say as in the responsorial psalm "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will". That is a hard thing to do. For one, it might take too much time.....I might get too involved, God might ask me to do something I don't want to do. I am quite comfortable where I am, don't change anything.

What is our goal, what is our mission? In our gospel reading, we have John's disciples find out that Jesus is the "Lamb of God". They started following Jesus and Jesus asked them "What are you looking for"

If it was me, I would have turned around and went back to John the Baptist.

The disciples didn't. In fact, Andrew told his brother, Simon, that "We have found the Messiah." And of course, Simon was renamed Peter, our first Pope. Are we open to God's call? Are we ready to jump out on a limb? Do we have that intense, personal relationship with Christ? We must come and see and be open to His call.

I ask my 9th grade confirmation class....what is your goal? And of course, after a lot of prompting, they come back with "to get to heaven!" and then I ask them "What is your mission? "To bring others with me" That is what Christ is calling us to do. Not just Father, not just Deacon Jim and not just Deacon Steve.....all of us. Mathew chapter 28: verses 19 and 20 Jesus is commissioning the disciples with these words

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

So how do we fulfill the Great Commission? A lot of you are already doing that.....by going to mass, by going to Bible Study, by attending the Adult Faith Formation and by coming to the Evangelism and Outreach meetings.

The more we know about our faith, the better we can stand up for it and the easier it is for us to talk about it to others. And remember, the Holy Spirit will be there to open doors to those that are lost and the Holy Spirit will be there for you. How many here want to go to hell? Show of hands. Yup, that's really what I want to do all right.....We need to be open to the Holy Spirit and He will be there for you.

And now I ask all of you.....What is your goal.....what is your mission?