

First Wednesday of the First Week of Advent, Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, November 30

Rom 10:9-18, Mt 4:19

On this Feast of St. Andrew, I recall how Jesus called him, along with his brother, Simon Peter, to become “fishers of men”. It seems that there was no hesitation to leave their profession, not to mention their father, and follow Jesus. When I was much younger, I tended to feel an inner anxiety when reading this Scripture. A medley of questions arise:

At a young age, could I just leave my profession with no assurances?

Why am I in college, if I do not aspire for a good paying job?

What about healthcare, mortgage, travel, retirement, etc...?

Could I have abandoned my father’s dreams for me? Even more, my mother’s dreams?

As it turns out, I did choose a form of discipleship. Many do not know that I was a religious Brother in my twenties. As much as I learned much in those years, I felt that the vocation of a lay leader was more genuine for my discipleship. There was less security, and yet more freedom to live out my call to ministry. I made a choice similar to Andrew.

There are times I envy friends traveling the world, owning multiple homes, and retiring early. I, however, refocus on what has offered me. As Andrew went forth to spread the Christ message to others, I am fortunate to encounter many wonderful persons, Christian and others while continuing to minister. I have a warm home, two cats, a car, and enough to eat each day. God does provide me, daily, with a new morning, a chance to attempt to live a good life, and making a small difference in the world.

So in this season of Advent, I am grateful for what God has provided, and will continue to so as I attempt to be a good companion to others. In the spirit of St. Andrew, may we be assured that the path set by Jesus does provide gifts that have yet to be discovered.

Peace

Kenneth Ortega, Director of Evangelization