

## HOMILY 2<sup>nd</sup> SUN LENT YRA 2017

I think we have moments of clarity from God in our lives, I want to share one of the bigger moments I have had in my life. It was a number of years ago. I finished law school, passed the bar and got my first job as an attorney. The job did not go well, and I quit after 6 months without another job. I was a little anxious at the time. I had a mortgage and no one to make the payments if I could not make them. I had spent lots of money on tuition and worked really hard to get through law school, thinking this would be my second career, and it was not working out too well. This was the first time in my adult life that I did not have a job. One night I had a dream. It was very brief. I did not hear any word in the dream but the message from God was do not be afraid; I will take care of you. Everything is going to be ok. I want you to come live at church. I want you to be a priest. I woke up immediately after the dream. I had a very strong sense of peace and what I would call spiritual consolation. I knew everything would be ok. The part about being a priest seemed to come from left field. I thought, I am not going to be a priest, I just spent the last 5 years preparing to be an attorney and I am not going to start something new at this stage of my life. I did spend more time praying and I began to volunteer at church. Eventually I did leave my law practice and go to seminary, but it took me over 3 years to get there. Many other things happened in the interim. The dream planted a seed I never would have come up with on my own. I can still feel what I felt at the time I had that dream, that spiritual consolation.

I think Peter, James and John had a moment of clarity from God in the Gospel reading today. It was revealed to them that Jesus was God, they experienced spiritual consolation. They wanted to make three tents and stay there on the mountain with Jesus, Moses and Isaiah. But it was very brief and they got their message: “This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.” I am sure they did not have a total understanding of what this meant at

the time, but I wonder how many times they recalled this experience and listened to Jesus and did what he told them to do.

In the first reading today we heard about the call of Abram, who was son to become Abraham. Abram was 75 years old when he received this call to pick up everything and move to a new place, and he did not know where that would be. That was Abram's moment of clarity with God and he went. I think I would have said: "At 75 years old? I may have done this 50 years ago, but I cannot do that now. I did not want to start down the road to the priesthood at that stage of my life, and I was nowhere near 75 years old. But Abram did as God asked him.

Is something missing in your life? Maybe you need to be more connected to God to get your moments of clarity. We have had this power outage over the last couple of days. You do not realize how much you rely on power until you do not have it. I think the same thing happens when we become disconnected from God. We do not get those moments of clarity and we get lost. The more connected I get to God, the more moments of clarity I have. Most of them are not as big and the one I described earlier but I know they are from God because they are not things I would come up with myself. Once we get those moments of clarity we have to find the courage to follow through and actually do them. I think fear can keep us from following through with what God is calling us to do. Maybe we are afraid of failure. I have come to realize that when you are doing God's work, he will help you. You do not have to do it alone. Sometimes we are afraid that it will be too much hard work and it will not be worth it. Most of the worthwhile things we do in our life require a lot of hard work. We can be afraid that we are too old, too young, not worthy, not skilled enough. We need to feel the fear and do it anyway. If these fears are keeping you from doing what you know you are supposed to do, the fear is not from God. Is something missing in your life? Maybe it is God.