



Spiritual Reflection - Come and See

When Jesus turned and saw two of his disciples following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see. (John 1.38-39)

In his January 14, 2024 (Sunday) homily, Fr. Felix Anthony, O. Carm., then Associate Pastor of St. John of the Cross and now Pastor of St. Martin of Tours (both in Mississauga, ON) explored the meaning of Jesus' response:

The Gospel reading is about a wakeup call - an invitation to our faith. It's all about listening and seeing. It's a call to go deeper – not just to hear but to listen, to take the effort to listen; not just to look, but to see, to take the effort to see. Our answers to that question probably reveal more clarity about listening and seeing because it is a question about us, our life, our relationships and world than the things we are looking for.

How many times have we heard a child or grandchild say, 'Come and see.', 'Come and see my drawing!', 'Come and see what I made!' Always, there is excitement... and joy in their voice... maybe even a sense of urgency. Their words invite us to share in their discovery, to experience their world, and to participate in their life. Adults say this, too. We invite our spouse, a best friend, a trusted colleague to come and see our work and accomplishments, to come and see our pain and struggles, to come and see our life. It is an invitation to let our life and theirs come together as one. At some level, these are moments when God reveals His life in us and among us. A secondhand faith can neither sustain nor transform life. That revelation happens only by firsthand experience. Firsthand experiences are independent of our life circumstances or conditioning. In every circumstance of our life - good or bad, desired or dreaded - Jesus is calling us to Himself with that invitation. And a firsthand experience will not let us stay where we are. It moves us to a new place. It opens our eyes to a new reality. It turns our life in a different direction. It gives, grows, and sustains life in a new way. The most profound firsthand experience is Jesus Himself. In each of our lives, He comes to us. His coming is always a moment of decision. We must choose between being a spectator or participant in His life. What are you looking for? Are you looking for healing and wholeness?

Come and see. Are you looking for forgiveness and reconciliation? **Come and see** - Are you looking for light and clarity? **Come and see** - Are you looking for life and life abundant? **Come and see.** In whatever ways we might answer Jesus' question: His response is the same, **Come and See.** It's the promise there is somewhere to go and there is something to see and experience.

Reflection Questions

1. At what moment/s in your life you clearly experienced His "come and see" invitation?
2. Recall a situation where you extended His invitation to others, expressing and showing understanding and compassion, and offering them hope and confidence.

Let us pray... Our Good Shepherd, grant us to grow in discernment in all the days of our life of which path You want to lead us, as well as the way we can be bearers of Your invitation, presence and assurance to others. May we in our hearts show obedience to Your will amidst our own struggles, fears and anxieties, and self-doubts, and move to what and where You want us to be. May we also share boldly Your invitation to those experiencing pain, isolation, hopelessness, injustice and hunger in all its forms, hence deepening our relationship with them.

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About the writer: Jose is a chartered professional accountant. He is a member of Saint John of the Cross, Mississauga, Ontario Conference, a member of the Greater Toronto Central Council Spirituality Committee, and President as well as Spiritual Facilitator of the Peel North Particular Council. He is also member of the Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) Board of Directors.

For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email jose.torres@rogers.com. Also, for current and past months' reflections that may be used in group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out Spirituality - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada (ssvp.ca).