



National Vocations
Awareness Week 7th – 14th
August 2011

Parish Resources

National Vocations Awareness Week, 2011

Listing of Possible Hymns:

7TH August: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be Not Afraid	Bob Dufford SJ
Be Still And Know	Trisha Watts
Blest Be The Lord	Dan Schutte
Glory and Praise	Dan Schutte
On Eagle's Wings	Michael Joncas
Only in God	John Foley SJ
We Walk by Faith	Marty Haugen
You Are Mine	David Haas
You Are Near	Dan Schutte

14TH August: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All The Earth	Lucien Deiss
Bread for the World	Bernadette Farrell
Gather Us In	Marty Haugen
Gather Your People	Bob Hurd
The Cry of the Poor	John Foley
We Are Called	David Haas
We Are Many Parts	Marty Haugen



National Vocations Awareness Week 2011 Homily Notes

August 7th 2011 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

燐 *Elijah went into the cave and spent the night in it*

- Prayer is vital to discover one's vocation; to hear God's call requires silence and discernment away from the activity of life

燐 *Then he was told, "Go out..."*

- A vocation always leads us outwards towards others and the world

燐 *There came the sound of a gentle breeze...*

- God's call on the human heart is at times tumultuous but most regularly it is gentle and brings peace.

Gospel

燐 *He went towards them...walking on the lake...*

- Vocation is God's call. We often think of this meaning that we come to God; we approach God. But it also means God comes to us, walks towards us – in the form of the loved one whom we want to marry – in the charism of a founder of a religious order and those who live the charism – in the Church who nourishes us through sacraments in the person of the priest.

燐 *Tell me to come to you across the water*

- The vocation of each Christian is to holiness. This is the call we receive at Baptism. To follow Christ means to step out like Peter, to take the risk of possibly sinking and yet trusting that Christ's hand will reach out to pull me up.

燐 *Do not be afraid*

- There is much fear in the disciples' hearts when they see Jesus walking on the water towards them in the hours of darkness before dawn. This is something they didn't know about him, something they couldn't have predicted. They encounter the divinity of Jesus put on view through his humanity. To experience the divine is an awesome and unsettling experience. But Jesus tells them not to be afraid, "Take heart. It is I; do not be afraid." That is the most regular statement of Jesus in the gospels; do not be afraid.



National Vocations Awareness Week 2011 Homily Notes

August 14th 2011 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Second Reading

燐 *God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice*

- God makes a claim on us. God has chosen us through baptism. This choice is never revoked. Baptism leaves an indelible mark upon us. God calls some to further consecration – through the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders and also through religious profession.

Gospel

燐 *The Canaanite woman pleads with Christ on behalf of her daughter*

- The priest, through his ordination, shares in the ministerial priesthood of Christ. Christ is always making intercession for us before the throne of God. This is both honour and burden for the priest; an honour to carry the sorrows and joys of God's people, their fractured holiness and their petitions to God especially through the celebration of the Mass. It is burden too as the priest helps his people shoulder the burdens of life

- Consecrated life demands also of sisters and brothers that they also be ones who pray and make intercession. They show the People of God how important it is to pray as well as to do, as St Benedict said "*ora et labora*", to pray and to work.

燐 The Canaanite woman showed three virtues necessary for all who follow Christ and especially for those who respond to the vocation of ordained and consecrated life

- The Canaanite woman shows great **love**, which comes across in her self-forgetfulness. She was so concerned for her daughter, than she was even willing to make a humiliating spectacle out of herself, tagging along behind a Jewish rabbi in public, shouting to get his attention.
- Her **faith** comes across in how she addresses Jesus. She calls him "Lord" and "Son of David." Although she was a Canaanite; she knew about the Jewish religion and accepted God's promise to send a Messiah. And when he finally stops to listen to her, she falls on her knees and does him homage - she knows she is in God's presence. She believed in Jesus, so much so, in fact, that Jesus himself compliments her on her faith – in stark contrast to the faith Jesus usually finds in Israel.
- Her **humility** comes across in the way she makes her request. She didn't come to him burning with anger at God for allowing her innocent daughter to be tormented by demons. She understood that miracles were undeserved gifts from God, just like existence itself. This humble attitude strengthened her, enabling her to absorb the Lord's initial rejection, and then come right back with another petition.



NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK 7TH – 14TH AUGUST, 2011

Bulletin Notices:

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (7th August, 2011)

"... there came the sound of a gentle breeze. "When the Lord spoke to Elijah on Mount Horeb, it was not in the wind or in the earthquake or in the fire. No, the Lord spoke to Elijah in the tiny whisper of the breeze (1 Kings: 19) May we be conscious of the whisperings of God in our lives calling us to follow through the gift of our baptism. Let us not allow our lives to become too 'noisy' to hear the gentle voice of God speaking.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (14th August, 2011)

On the second Sunday of National Vocations Awareness Week we are given the opportunity to prayer for those who serve the Lord through the Ordained and Consecrated life. Let us pray especially that men and women will listen to the Lord calling them into relationship through a life dedicated to service and prayer.



NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Prayers of the Faithful

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (7th August)

CELEBRANT: We now turn to the Father in prayer, confident that He will hear us and will respond in love.

Reader: For the Shepherds of the Church. We pray that Pope Benedict, our bishop William and the leaders of our communities that they will be strengthened in their ministry and be ever more faithful witnesses to Christ Jesus. Lord hear us...

Reader: For our Church community that we may understand the richness of our baptism and be a people ready to respond with generosity to the call of God in our lives. Lord hear us...

Reader: For ourselves that we may listen to the whisperings of God and respond to these whisperings as faithful members of our parish communities. Lord hear us...

Reader: For all those who are confused and uncertain due to misfortune and uncertainty, that they will be calmed by Christ's healing touch. Lord hear us...

Reader: For the gift of trust and faith that allows us a clear vision of what God wants for the Church. Lord hear us...

Reader: For the witness of faithful single people and strong married couples in our communities, that they may continually call all of us to the loving presence of God in our midst. Lord hear us...

Reader: For all who gather at this Eucharistic table that we may witness to each other the healing presence of Jesus, who calls each of us to reveal the face of God in our world and in our time. Lord hear us...

Reader: For all those who have died recently and for those who mourn them, especially_____. May they rest in peace of the Risen Christ. Lord hear us...

Celebrant Faithful God, you commanded nature and calmed the savage sea. Accept these prayers we offer today and walk with us through the storms of life until we come to rest in you. We ask this in Jesus' name.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK, 2011

Prayers of the Faithful

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (14th August)

CELEBRANT: We now turn to the Father in prayer, confident that He will hear us and will respond in love.

Reader: For the Shepherds of the Church. We pray that Pope Benedict, our bishop William and the leaders of our communities that they will be strengthened in their ministry and be ever more faithful witnesses to Christ Jesus. Lord hear us...

Reader: For our Church community, that we may understand the richness of our baptism and be a people ready to respond with generosity to the call of God in our lives. Lord hear us...

Reader: We pray that the Lord will guide young people as they make important choices in their lives. We pray especially for parents, teachers and all those who work with young people, that their guidance and example will be strong and faith filled. Lord hear us...

Reader: For all that we who are gathered here will show courage and faith to our brothers and sisters in times of trial. Lord hear us...

Reader: We pray for young men and women who feel called to give their lives in dedicated service to God and the Church. We ask that the Holy Spirit will guide them in their discernment and that they may be willing to take the risk of "putting out into the deep". Lord hear us...

Reader: We pray for those in formation to be priests, deacons and religious. We pray that they may have the courage to accept the call to ministry in the Church and be willing to serve Him in trust and faith. Lord hear us...

Reader: We pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. Lord hear us...

Reader: We pray for all those who have died recently and for those who mourn them. We remember all those priests and religious who served this community over the years and who have died. May they rest in peace of the Risen Christ. Lord hear us...

Celebrant Father, teach us to follow Christ your Son more faithfully. By listening to His voice may we become a community more attuned to your call in our lives. We ask you to hear the prayers we make to you today, those made out loud, and those made in the silence of our hearts. We ask you to hear them through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.