

January 20-21, 2018
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-10

First Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

How do we choose our friends? How do our friends choose us? Why are we friends with certain people and not with others? Humans, being relational creatures, long ago in our primitive beginnings we recognized that we were better off grouping together to face the dangers of the world, sharing food and perhaps even 'enjoying' the earliest pleasures offered by earth 6-million years ago. Through the Incarnation (recently celebrated at Christmas of God becoming human) Jesus was a social person. Not having any records of his early childhood (and beware those who say they do!!) we DO know that around the age of 30 Jesus purposely began to gather his 'disciples' to himself. These were not lofty, rich or highly educated people...they were an assortment of men (many of them fishermen or others who toiled with their hands) and of supportive women. In these early days of Ordinary Time we hear within the Gospels how Jesus went about tapping and selecting certain individuals with whom he would grow a deeper relationship and presumably with whom he would likewise be enriched by their company and companionship. What did Jesus see in these individuals that wet his 'human' desire for friendship with them? What was there about Jesus that intrigued his earliest disciples to the point that they would leave their families to associate with Jesus? In our OWN relationships with Jesus....when did you hear/feel/experience Jesus inviting you to draw close and build a friendship? By being in relationship with Jesus what have you learned about yourself? How is your understanding of Jesus different now, in 2018, than it was when you first began to feel him tugging at your heart/soul? As we move further into this NEW YEAR of faith, it is wise to remember NOT to try to keep Jesus being who he WAS last year....anymore than your closest friends stay the same from year to year. Within these early weeks of 2018 we are nudged to consider WHY we still want to be in relationship with Jesus NOW...even knowing what we know (about the limitations of the relationship)...and why is Jesus still wanting to be in relationship with us....knowing what he knows!

The MLK holiday behind us and Valentine's week still distant, thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we complete our first full month of Winter. This weekend we give great focus to St. Francis School in anticipation of next weekend's OPEN HOUSE. Thank you for the attention you will give our parish families who will be sharing at the different Masses this weekend...and for considering to go up and visit SFA next weekend to check out firsthand what our local Catholic School looks like. Having received the FIRST PSA letter and Diocesan PSA brochure in your mail this past week...THIS WEEK you will be receiving OUR Santa Clara material that will hopefully glue you to your seats as you read and consider all that is within it. **Our Pastoral Services Appeal Pledge weekend is coming closer and closer, February 3 & 4**...so please review all that we send you (extra material is available on the side table near the Reconciliation Room.) Enjoy your week and remember, rain or shine, winter or summer, you are loved. FKB