

**January 25-26, 2020**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Isaiah 8:23-9:3**

**First Corinthians 1:10-17**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

‘He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.’ In response to John the Baptist’s arrest, Jesus uprooted himself and began living in Capernaum. While there he also began gathering to himself those who would become his closest companions. This necessarily means that he KNEW these individuals in some depth but the Scriptures tell us NOTHING about his selection process. We do not know how many dinners he may have had with the disciples, how lengthy was his discernment process or if there were individuals who had been invited but chose to abstain from joining him. Once again, we are offered the bare-bones information of Sacred Scripture, which does not try to convey details but the end results of Jesus’ efforts...we know nothing of how Jesus may have spoken to those he selected but we are given the highlights of their response to him. In our own lives, from the time we first begin making friends, we each develop our own unique ways of entering into relationships, of growing them and our own ways of discerning the depth of trust they each engender. As adults, who introduced you to Jesus? Were you offered an open-ended sort of option or were you THREATENED that you absolutely needed Jesus in your life and really had no choice? How has the relationship grown....or not? How has your interest in Jesus waned or increased? Do you feel you know him better today than whenever you first began to be introduced to him? What have been important moments of discernment for you as you have grown in your Jesus-relationship? Is he your friend? Is he some sort of boss or manager? Is he a companion? As we hear of Jesus selecting those with whom he would spend a great deal of time...and whose lives would be changed by their association with Jesus...it might be worthwhile to review our own individual relationship with him. As we settle into another year of opportunity and challenges, how has Jesus impacted our own life?

A month that began with champagne and excitement prepares to segue into the shortest month of the year. As we ponder how our own Jesus relationships have impacted our own lives, these are also the days when we are encouraged to consider how our involvement with Santa Clara de Asis has impacted the way in which we live? With 19 years of existence under our belt...only now are we actively considering constructing a permanent Church in which to worship. Please keep checking your mailbox for the materials we are sending...which will reveal to you the beauty we propose to construct. Can you imagine yourself within our permanent home? Can you imagine the pride with which you will point out our permanent Church to your friends and family? In a short while you will receive the FULL REVEAL of our Permanent Church, please read through it carefully, multiple times. Write down any questions you may have so I can answer them for you. We still have a few snags that need to be overcome....but if our Permanent Church is truly of God...these will be smoothed out. Full steam ahead...the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!!! And as you help it dawn, please remember, you are loved. FKB