

Vocation page reflection for August 9, 2020

## **HEEDING THE SILENCE**

“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.” Psalm 85: 8,9

In my mind I can relate this Sunday’s readings, especially the Elijah story and the Gospel, with the current situation in which we find ourselves. As so often happens when difficult times occur, we tend to ask why God would do this or allow it. We need to understand that God did not want the king and queen of Israel to try to kill Elijah, nor did God send the wind, fire, earthquake or storm at sea to try the faith of Elijah or that of the disciples. Nor did God send the COVID-19 pandemic to test us. The first situation was the outcome of sin and the others were natural phenomena.

However, this time of living in the pandemic is an opportunity and a challenge to us to reflect on our faith and our relationships with God, our sisters and brothers and creation. Gone is the rush of our busy world, our social gatherings (especially the large events like concerts, festivals, etc.), our usual routine. So many things that were commonplace and occupied our time, energy and attention are gone. In their place we experience isolation, social distancing, small social bubbles – and the list goes on. What we have is the silence in which Elijah and the disciples recognized God’s presence. It was in that silence that they were able to listen to God’s voice and know that God was present to them, giving them life and salvation. The experience of listening to God’s voice and knowing God presence gave them the renewed strength and courage to continue in their particular vocations.

Peter, in a moment of audacity, challenged Jesus to call him to walk on the water. When Jesus called, Peter responded, but in a moment of doubt and confronted by the storm he began to sink. It was only in the quiet after Jesus calmed the storm that he truly recognized Jesus and then was able to hear the call to follow in a radical way. In that experience, Peter came to a deeper understanding of his vocation and renewed his commitment to discipleship.

In the quiet of these pandemic times, do I recognize the call to pause and listen to Jesus’ invitation to follow him? Am I ready to “walk on the water” and trust that if I respond God will always be with me and guide me along the way? The questions for our time are: Where is God calling me today? How am I called to live my relationship with God and serve my sisters and brothers?

**Richard Beaudette, OMI**

Vocation Team

613-806-3435

Vicar1@omilacombe.ca