

Ordinary Time 2A 2014

Knowing Who We Are in Christ

Nothing is more important than knowing who we are. When we know who we are, we know how to act. When we know how to act, we act with confidence.

But if I were to ask who you are, how would you respond? To be sure you would tell me your name. But what else would you say about yourself? What defines who? Is it your work, your job, your profession? Is it your family and friends? Who we are can be a challenging question. And so there are moments when we must ask who we are, what is truly important in our lives.

Jesus was fully aware of who he was. He understood that he was the Servant of God called to be a light to all the nations of the world. He understood that he was the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world. And so he did not come into the world to be served but to serve and to give his life for others. He came to bring the light of God's love and grace to a world living in the darkness of sin and death.

Because Jesus knew who he was, he knew what to do. There was no doubt; there was no reservation. Because Jesus knew he was the Servant and Lamb of God, he knew how to act.

But can we say the same for ourselves? Who are we? Saint Paul answers this question when he tells us in today's second reading that we have been sanctified in

Christ Jesus; we have been called to be holy. We are God's holy ones, God's saints! We are not saints because of what we have done; we are saints because God has consecrated and made us holy in his Son, Jesus, Christ.

Consider what this means. Because God has sanctified and consecrated us by the blood of his Son we have a profound relationship with God in Christ. Because God has called us to be holy, we know the goal and purpose of our life—we know that the goal and purpose of our life is to become who we are in Christ.

We have been made holy in Christ; we have been made saints in Christ. In Christ we have been consecrated and dedicated to the service of God. In Christ we enjoy the very holiness of God. But if this is so, then we ought to live in a way that corresponds to who we are in Christ.

Who are we? Are we what we do? Or is there something more? To be sure what we do is important. To be sure, our family defines us. But our deepest identity is not what we do; it is who we are in Christ. We are God's holy ones; we are God's saints. Each of us, without exception, has been called to live in the holiness God gives us in Christ. We have been sanctified and consecrated to God; we are destined for life with God. This is who we are, and this makes all the difference. This is who we are, and so we can live with faith and confidence.

Listen carefully to the beginning of today's Eucharistic Prayer. That prayer proclaims that God has summoned us to the glory of being called a chosen race, a

royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own possession to proclaim his mighty deeds because he has called us out of darkness in to his own wonderful light. This is who we are, this is how we ought to live.