

A Short Teaching on Called to be Holy
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on the Solemnity Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Readings: IS 49:3, 5-6; PS 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 COR 1:1-3; JN 1:29-34

What is so ordinary about Ordinary time? Paul puts it out there in the letter to the Corinthians:

To the church of God that is in Lake Worth:

- (1) You have been sanctified in Christ Jesus.
- (2) You are called to be holy.

What does this Holiness bring? Isaiah explains:

- (1) I will make you a light to the nations so that my salvation reaches the ends of the earth.

How does this start? The Psalmist brings his/her answer:

- (1) Say.. Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will.

How will I know who to follow? John the Baptizer explains:

- (1) The one who sent me to baptize with water told me.
- (2) 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Who is he this Lamb-Son? John proclaimed it:

- (1) Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- (2) Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.

What did /does the Lamb-Son do?

- (1) The paschal lamb, whose blood saved Israel (Ex 12).
- (2) The suffering servant led like a lamb to the slaughter as a sin-offering (Is 53:7, 10).
- (3) Apocalyptic lamb who would destroy evil in the world (Rev 5-7; 17:14).

Isaiah, the Psalmist, Paul, John the Baptizer are in agreement. Be holy. Be a sin offering, let your blood be a shield to protect the innocent, and destroy evil. All by simply loving as Jesus loved.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry