

Your weekly Journey of Faith reflection

"Come and you will see"

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon."□

John 1:38-39

Dear Deacon Nguyen,

Profoundly meaningful events leave particularly vivid imprints on the mind and heart; godly encounters even more so.

We remember time and place because when we encounter God, we encounter our true selves on the deepest level.

The time of day for "God encounters" is recorded with great accuracy in Scripture. John recounts that it was four in the afternoon because that is when the first disciples encountered Jesus personally; it was when they found the Messiah. But this biblical passage reveals yet another pearl regarding who God is and what He has done for us.

Just moments before, John the Baptist had announced, "Behold, the Lamb of God" within earshot of the soon-to-be-disciples; then the proverbial clock struck four. Four in the afternoon is significant—yes, because it was time for all present to think about the evening's accommodations as daylight was waning—but even more significant, because it was the time of day when the lamb of daily sacrifice was offered up. John leaves no doubt in his Gospel that this was the Christ, the Lamb of God, who would one day be the sacrificial lamb for all of us.

Our pontiff stresses the importance of time as it relates to discovering God. "God reveals himself within and through time...Only through time are we able to see how God is at work in each and every person and in each and every situation." ("Faith According to Pope Francis" by

Msgr. Daniel B. Gallagher—The Catholic World Report—Sept. 24, 2013)

Prayer for 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time□

O God of our Messiah and brother Jesus, how grateful we are to have been called to see where Jesus lives, and to have His presence within our own hearts revealed to us. Jesus presented Himself as the true Messiah whose coming would fulfill the deepest yearnings of the people's hearts. Andrew's discovery could not be kept under wraps and so he invited his brothers and friends to meet this Jesus. They did and they rejoiced. In our joy at this new year's beginning, may we be ready to see Your Spirit's presence both within us and all about us, in those You place on the path of our lives, so as to rejoice together in creating a peace-filled and welcoming world for all of our sisters and brothers.

Amen.

~ Father John P. Martin, M.M.

Dinh, encountering God personally is wonderful, but we must go beyond "self and God" discovery, to "other and God" discovery by continuing to encounter God in all those we come into contact with. It's an "outgoing of the indwelling", and it happens in real time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Raymond J. Finch, M.M.
