

Homily 2019.05.12 by Fr. Gabor

This weekend is dedicated to Vocations everywhere in the Church. Originally the word vocation comes from the word 'voice', so 'Vocation' is all about voice.

Our daily life is full of voices, all of which try to draw attention to them.

The question is how do we know which voices come from God and which ones come from our spiritual enemy?

Here I can only give you a rough guide. Voices in our minds and hearts that exploit our emotional, spiritual or even physical pain and tempt us to develop negative attitudes and negative thoughts against God and fellow men definitely do not come from God. However, once you get to the roots of these negative attitudes and see more clearly the lying voices that feed on them, and you consciously reject these lying voices you will feel much more free from these lying voices and you will feel more free to love. To help you in this I can also give you a book for guidance.

On the other hand voices that fulfil us spiritually and enable us to love God and fellow human beings with all our hearts and minds and with all our strength definitely come from the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

This is what the Gospel reading tells us: the voice of the Good Shepherd leads the sheep to pastures where they find peace and new life.

Today we remember that the Good Shepherd calls some people to lead the sheep to green pastures, to the source of true life, where they are nourished and spiritually uplifted. Therefore to me this is a really exciting and wonderful ministry.

When I entered seminary formation for the priesthood I didn't know for sure whether my desire to serve Jesus and to lead His body, the Church, was a sign of his calling to me or not. I didn't know how to find out and be sure about it, and even up till today He never told me clearly, but there was one particular voice through which he spoke to me and convinced me to ask to be ordained as a deacon and then as a priest, and it was my sense of **inner contentment**. It means that every time during the 6 years of my seminary formation when I imagined myself as a priest living in a parish and looking after God's people I was filled with peace and contentment, as simple as that. **CONTENTMENT**; the Lord reassures me even today with a great sense of contentment, which is not happiness, and over the past 15 years He has definitely given me more and more of the graces, gifts and charisms that I needed to carry out His ministry, and He gives to everyone His graces who respond to his call with courage.

If you are a father or mother, your ministry is quite similar to a priest's ministry: you are also called to lead your family, your children to green pastures, to spiritual nourishment. Do not let them feed themselves with superficial and

empty things, but you feed them with what nourishes their soul. Parents you are called to be images of the Good Shepherd, just like priests; claim your divine duty, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you, and step up with courage and wisdom. Do not let the enemy, the spiritual wolf, snatch away your children by the lies of materialism, empty promises and superficial love. Many children listen today to these and other voices of lies that come through non-Christians and sadly also from Christians who are not committed to follow the Good Shepherd. So renew your commitment to the Good Shepherd, then renew your commitment to lead your family to green pastures, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you and then sit down with your child and have a heart to heart conversation with him/her and find out what voices affect them, and get to the roots of their problems that they are struggling with. The light of truth will drive out the voice of their spiritual enemies, and then they will once again listen to Him and follow Him to green pastures, to real fulfilment.

Finally it is important that whether you succeed in your ministry or not is not as important as putting all your heart and soul into it, because Jesus didn't seek success either. He put His whole Heart and Soul into the single purpose, namely to show the love and mercy of our heavenly Father. Therefore through His pierced Heart now we can be on our way towards the most exciting pasture; our heavenly Father's eternal pasture.