

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

January 18, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
Rev. Jeff McGowan

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING: 1 SAMUEL 3:3B-10, 19**

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

**PSALM 40**

To do your will, O my God, is my delight!

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13C-15A, 17-20**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.

**GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 35-42**

He said to them, “Come and you will see.”

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January is the month of courageous beginnings. Whatever relentless urging lies deeply within us, this month is a good time to reflect on what it takes to opt for growth and transformation. But January can also be called the month of fear because it is the month of new possibility. It was fear that crucified Jesus; it is fear that crucifies us. Nelson Mandela of South Africa believes that it is not our inadequacies that make us afraid, but the immeasurable power of our true, graced nature. “Come and see,” Jesus said.

So far this January, we have experienced the National Championship for UF football, the heroic pilot who brought his plane down in the Hudson River and the rescue of all the passengers and crew, and this Tuesday, we will witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama. It may be cold outside; but the heart of our country beats boldly. Only a free and courageous people can make a free world. All in all, this January offers us a moment of hope, a whisper of truth, an Easter candle in a window—all are subversive to the nattering nabobs of negativity—all present an invincible response to fear mongerers. Yes, I like to think of January as the month of courageous beginnings. And yes, fear can ruin our timing.

Paul wrote: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?” There are those who dread the arrival of a new day, their stomach is already in a knot. Even while lifting the morning coffee-cup to our lips, we

continue to struggle with the shocking belief that the cloud of our fears and despair can be dispersed from our hearts by the healing shaft of light we call God. Will this new day be a sad sequel to yesterday—or a unique work of art? Every new day, every New Year offers us a choice—do we dance it or do we endure it?

We need to make Samuel's words from our first reading our own: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." What we do, think and say, first thing in the morning, the saints tell us, deeply colors the rest of the day. Our wildest dreams, which may well be God's dreams too, are within our grasp if, for instance, even between showering and waking the children, we can, with a dogged loyalty, simply utter a heartfelt, "yes, my Lord, your servant is listening."

My friends, January is the month of courageous beginnings. This year has already started with good news, we are creatures of the light, let's determine that we will dance in the light and celebrate the good news!