

## From the Desk of Our Pastor ....

### Vocation



Let's be truthful here. The main problem with our society at large is boredom. People are bored so they sin, and sin brings on an even greater boredom which leads to greater sin. In the end we tire ourselves out and collapse in despair. The irony of the ages is this; holiness is the most exciting, wonder filled, awe-inspiring, power-packed, and adventurous attribute God has engaged humanity with.

By some evil twist, we unthinkingly gobble up whatever earth-born pleasures served up to us as the next greatest thing, and follow them into a downward vortex of shame and meaninglessness. Holiness is the very thing we all want, but run away from convinced that it is the very essence of "boring."

Any person who objectively reads the life of Christ in the Gospels cannot help but see that His life was anything but boring. Jesus was absolutely holy and therefore his life was the epitome of excitement, wonder, and meaningfulness. Jesus came into a bored and tired world and called humanity to holiness. Holiness **is** the vocation of everyone Jesus touches. He does this because He wants to share his joy with us.

So we must grasp the fact that all of us have the same general calling to holiness. This must not be reduced down to right moral behavior. Holiness includes morals, but goes far beyond. God calls each and every one of us from outside space and time to be holy like Jesus. That is, we have a meaning and purpose beyond ourselves which inevitably leads us to a radical life of missionary discipleship. There is now intentionality about our lives. There is now no place for boredom. As we have said above, boredom is the very opposite of holiness.

Once we grasp this general call to holiness, then our own particular calling will manifest itself. God is an artist; He never paints the same picture twice. Every one of us is unique with a unique purpose to accomplish. Uniqueness is a fundamental quality of holiness. (You know the devil has been around when everyone looks alike.) Are we to be single, married, a religious, a priest? Whatever, if we embrace our call to holiness, we will be joyful with what demands God places before us. Holiness is its own reward, and will look differently in each one of us.

Last Sunday at the 8:00 Mass I taught everyone the word "numinous," a word essential to the understanding of the idea of the holy. Jesus' holiness evoked constantly the conflicting reactions of abject terror as well as unutterable joy at the same time. As we grow in our calling to be holy we will find something of the numinous in us as well. People will be filled with awe that God is in this place, bedside themselves with joy! Let us not be afraid of God's call to holiness in our personal lives as well as our communal life together here at SJCC. Hold on for the ride of your life!

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Pastor