

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel reading for this week is one of my favorites (John 1:35-42). In it, John the Baptist sees Jesus walking by and says, "Behold the Lamb of God." Two of John's disciples, Andrew and a friend, go to Jesus and ask a very important question, "Where do you stay?" And Jesus responds, "Come and See."

That question, "Where do you stay?" is an important one for us to ask because it can be so easy for us to lose sight of the presence of Christ in our lives. Back in 1987 I left the seminary and the Archdiocese of Dubuque and moved to Oregon, Illinois. My dreams of becoming a priest were gone. I was in the process of finding a new vocation. I had a new job working at St. Mary Parish, I was dating, and I was trying to find myself in a world that was completely foreign to me. All I ever wanted to be was a priest. But, because of some of the problems I had encountered in my life, I wasn't ready at that time to become a priest, even though I was 27 years old. I was a late bloomer.

In the winter of 1988 I encountered this gospel passage and began to meditate on it. I found myself asking that question, "Where *do* you stay?" As I listened I heard Jesus say, "Come and see." I would like to share the reflection that came from this meditation.

COME AND SEE

I asked Jesus,
"Where do you stay?"
and he said,
"Come and See."

He led me to the poorest section of town
where the homeless congregate
for shelter from the cold.
They were smelly, drunk and broken.
I said, "You are here Jesus?"
And he said, "Come and see."

He brought me to a mental health institute
where people existed because
they could not care for themselves.
They wore pajamas all day,
and walked around like
sheep wandering aimlessly.
I said, "You stay here Jesus?"
He said, "Come and see."

In joyful hope,



Fr. Tim Seigel,
Pastor

He took me to a nursing home,
two sisters sitting
at their mothers bedside.
"She seems more alive than usual..."
"She is gone..."
I said, "You live here Jesus?"
He said, "Come and see."

He brought me to
a white sanctuary,
its tabernacle alive with His flesh.
There in silence
He broke open my heart.
In the pain of ecstatic joy I said,
"You are here Jesus!"
and he said, "Follow me."