

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos,  
Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, January 19,  
2020**

**Called and Sent**



The disciple is one who feels called by Jesus, that is, elected by God. The prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, says, “Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb... I will make you a light to the nations.”

The psalmist expresses his willingness to accept the invitation: “Lord; I come to do your will.”

St. Paul, in the second reading, says that he felt “called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,” addressing the Corinthian community as those who “have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy.”

In the gospel, John the Baptist recounts the experience that led him to recognize Jesus without any hesitation: “He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’” Everything that happened in the baptism of Jesus (the voice of the Father and the gift of the Holy Spirit) made it clear to John that “He is the Son of God.” Each one has his own experience of God, usually not as spectacular as John the Baptist's, but with a feeling that God has chosen him, that Jesus has called him.

Divine calling always presupposes a mission, a sending. It is therefore a matter of witnessing, of transmitting to others that experience that I have lived, which has transformed me and which I cannot keep for myself alone.

It is a double movement (called and sent) that we are all invited to make and which we are reminded of at the beginning of the liturgical cycle of Ordinary Time. It is a summary of how to follow Jesus on the path of life, that is, how to be a Christian.

May this year bring us renew hope, filled with God's grace.

*Father John Carlos*