

'Come and see . . .'
Second Sunday of the Year
January 18, 2015

They said to him, "Rabbi" - which means Teacher -,
"where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and
you will see."

John 1: 35-42

Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found
him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets
wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth . . . Come and
see."

John 1: 43-51

You're looking for a place to sit in the cafeteria or the bus -
and the only place open is next to her. She's OK - but
she's so quiet. Pleasant, but never says a word. Trying to
engage her in a conversation can be exhausting.

But you don't want to stand the whole trip or your food is
getting cold, so you ask if the seat is taken. She smiles
and invites you to sit. You notice the book she's reading
and you ask her about it. She explains that she's working
on her degree in physical therapy and lights up telling you
about all she has learned and experienced, especially
working with children.

You've never seen this side of her before and are taken by
her grace and enthusiasm.

Come and see . . .

On vacation, you come upon a small shop and see a beautiful piece of pottery.

You're debating whether or not to buy it. The clerk walks over and sees you admiring it. You tell her how much you like the piece but it's a bit more than you want to spend.

She invites you to follow her to the workshop in the back and she introduces you to her husband, the potter himself. He shows you his latest creation: a large bowl for a church baptistery.

He explains the process of making a piece like the one you like and tells the stories behind some of commissions.

You're struck not only by his skill but by his humility and love for what he does. You now have a whole new appreciation for the work you saw in the shop.

Come and see . . .

At your high school, you volunteer for the "best buddies" program.

You will serve as a friend and mentor to one of the school's "special needs" students. It is an eye-opening and humbling experience for you, seeing life from their perspective and understanding the struggles they have to overcome every day.

You're supposed to be the "good guy" here - but you quickly realize the gift you've received in the inspiring

courage, grace and joy of your "buddy." You will make more than just a friend for life in this relationship.

Come and see . . .

In today's Gospel, the first disciples are invited to look, to see what is before them, to realize who is in their midst.

The same invitation is extended to us, the disciples of Jesus in this time and place. Jesus calls us to "come and see": to realize the presence of God in the goodness and generosity around us; and to follow him:

to focus our attention on the needs of others rather than our own wants,

to find purpose in bringing joy into the lives of others rather than in the pursuit of the things the world deems as important.

Christ promises us, if we seek it, God's grace enabling us to open our eyes and hearts to behold the life and love of God in our midst.

"Stuff you need to Know"

*Some thoughts shared by Connections of MediaWorks,
and of course some by myself through the power of the
Holy Spirit*