

# Second Hand Preacher

*10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

June 5, 2016

## **Galatians 1:11-19**

What are various things that brought us to faith? I think the first one for me was being bullied as a child. Being picked on was constant for most of my school years. It made me sympathetic to others it was happening to. I was backed by caring adults. I had a few relatives and friends I could count on. There was pain and sadness, but also growth. A second was after college when I had a near drowning incident. I had asked God to save me so I could study for the priesthood. School had always been hard, but I was given special graces to overcome odds. The third experience was Guillain-Barre Syndrome in 2012. I had normal life taken away for six months. This illness taught me perseverance and the power of prayer. Afterwards, I had a special zeal to do the best I can after that. There are certainly other things that inspired me, but these stick out as ways God communicated with me.

St. Paul wrote that he was directly inspired by Jesus. He believed that at the time of his conversion Jesus inspired him directly. He was taught all he needed to know to preach to the Gentiles. St. Paul was given the Good News; he didn't need to go directly to Jerusalem. He went there later to meet with Peter and James. Even though he had not lived with Christ on earth, he felt equal to the Apostles. His calling was different than the twelve. He was the Apostle to the Gentiles.

We all have a story to tell as well. God comes to each of us in many and varied ways. It is our job to recognize this and to share it with others. Much like the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, we have a story to tell about us. This is a brave and delicate thing to do. It takes courage to put yourself out there and share your story. We need to look for opportunities to share what we have so that we can inspire others. The strengths that we are given to share our stories may be the motivation others need. St. Paul went about preaching his relationship and revelation that he received in Jesus. Our skill set may not be like Paul's, but we each have our own way to connect to others.