

Send Hand Preacher

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 15, 2017

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

I love to greet people. I like when there is one main door people leave from, so I can shake the maximum amount of hands. “Good morning” or “Good evening” flows from my mouth like morsels of encouragement. I feel like their father checking in with them. People exchange pleasantries and there are a lot of smiles. Sometimes someone has to pull me aside, but most of the time I want to use that time wishing people well. I feel real good about the opportunity to greet people and they really seem to enjoy greeting me back.

St. Paul likes to greet people. Nearly every one of his letters uses a formula for greeting the people of his communities. He is like a father to them and he wants to greet his children. Being a Christian was dangerous and often a community didn't receive much support. These letters were like lifelines to a church that often struggled to keep Christ in the center. These letters were meant to show affection before they would teach the disciples of Jesus. It seeded that Paul really cared for them. He showed his caring nature in the best way he knew how; that is sharing Jesus with them. He challenged them holy. He tried to live this to the best of his ability and he longed for his children in faith to do this also.

Are we encouraging to people in the ways of faith? Do we strive to be holy ourselves? We need to try and ask ourselves these questions as we go about our daily lives. Did we smile at that store clerk and in our hearts did we treat them with importance rather than just someone to serve us? We need to treat everyone with the respect they deserve. When we treat people with reverence is the only time we can effectively spread the message of Jesus Christ to him. A youth minister friend of mine uses a daily text to greet teens and give them something spiritual to think about in their daily lives. Being holy is simply allowing ourselves to be made whole by Jesus. I believe this is a message to spread to those in our lives who are open to the tender love of Jesus.