Fr. Martin's Reflection – February 6, 2022

## "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" I answered, "Here I am, send me."

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At the end of our first reading from the prophet Isaiah God poses the question, 'Whom shall I send?' Who will be our messenger? This is a question posed to every generation, who will be God's messenger to God's people? Our first thoughts of someone being called by God is usually to the priesthood or religious life and if we don't feel we are being called to either, then we are not being called.

This would be a very narrow and unfortunate view of 'calling'. We know this by what Jesus told us in the New Testament – 'When I was hungry you fed me, when I was naked you clothed me, when I was in prison or ill you came and visited me.' One of the strongest and clearest means of witnessing to God's message is by being present to each other – being present to each other when we celebrate the Eucharist, by taking an active part in the life of the parish. By being a Eucharistic Minister, a Lector, an Usher, a member of the Choir, a Religious Ed teacher, classroom assistant, or hall monitor. You may have other talents of organization, building management and maintenance. Maybe your time only allows you to take part in 'One-off' events – Christmas, Easter, or other parish events.

For many of us we, like Isaiah and Peter, have a sense of unworthiness, but God is very much aware of our unworthiness and that doesn't stop God from calling us and working through us. God cleansed Isaiah's unworthy lips with a hot coal saying, '… your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.' For Peter, Jesus simply reassures him by saying, 'Do not be afraid.'

Each of us can find 10,000 reasons why we don't answer God's call, but we need to be honest with ourselves, we hear God calling: **"Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?"**
**I answered: …?**

Friends, I pray that you will open your hearts to the call of God and not be afraid to say, 'Here I am, send me.'

Fr. Martin