

## **Fr. Martin's Reflection – January 14, 2024**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our first reading, taken from I Samuel 3:3-10,19, tells us about the call of Samuel. A young boy given back to God to fulfil the promise made by Hannah, his mom, to God. Hannah had left him in the care of Eli, a priest and judge of the Israelites, and he was to teach him the ways of the Lord. One night, while Samuel was sleeping, he hears his name being called, he gets up and goes to Eli and says, you called? Eli told him to go back and lie down, he didn't call. A second time Samuel hears his name called, he gets up and goes to Eli and again says, you called? Eli tells him again to go back and lie down. A third time Samuel hears his name called and again he goes to Eli. This time Eli realizes that it is God calling him, so he told him to go lie down again and if someone calls him to answer, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel hears again his name called, and this time he answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Some questions:

- Do you have someone to help you recognize the voice of the Lord?
- If yes, great, if not, who could you ask?
- Would you, like Samuel, have the courage to say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'?
- God doesn't just call the other person – God also calls you!

### **A Prayer for the Ability to Recognize God's Voice**

**God, thank You for giving me a calling and a purpose. I ask that You provide me with discernment in the choice I need to make. If there's a specific path You want me to take, please make it clear to me. And help me to have the courage to take the step you're leading me toward. Thank You for Your compassionate presence. Amen**

*Fr. Martin*