

We All Have a Vocation

Friday, December 19, 2014
3rd Week of Advent



The Angel Gabriel said to him: “Do not be frightened, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth shall bear a son whom you shall name John.”
(Luke 1:13)

In the past when I read about John the Baptist’s vocation, I envied him. There couldn’t be a more privileged vocation than to go before the Lord and prepare the way before him. But, through the years I have come to see that indeed that IS my vocation: to go before the Lord and proclaim his presence!

Today I am struck by the vocation of the Angel Gabriel, announcing that Jesus is about to be born into the world. How similar is John and Gabriel’s vocation—and how like my own! How exciting that makes my life to remind another that Jesus is about to be born in their lives! This occurs sometimes through heroic efforts, like saving another from human trafficking; sometimes by offering a blanket to those under subways on bitterly cold, rainy nights. But much of our lives take place in ordinary and simple ways. When you shovel the snow from a neighbor’s walk, you help Jesus to be born into the world. When you shop for the home-bound, smile at another whose life seems bereft of friends, drop a coin into a jar at the check-out counter collecting for a worthy cause, you help Jesus to be born into the world.

Reflection:

I have long forgotten the author of this quote but it goes something like this: “What good is it if Jesus is born to Mary on this day if he isn’t also born in your heart?”

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus for so rich a vocation. Help me always be aware of and to fulfill it in my everyday living.

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