

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 23, 2022
Year of Saint Joseph

“And those whom he predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified” (Romans 8:30).

The verse you have just read, stood out for me as I studied today’s readings from Sacred Scripture. “Called;” “Justified;” “Glorified.” Three very powerful words. I invite you to explore with me, these three—oft spoken, oft heard—words as they apply to each of us.

We are all “Called”—to be saints—to ministry—to evangelize—all according to His purpose. In the first case—to be saints—St. Paul proclaimed this to the Church at Corinth “. . . to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours” (I Cor. 1:2). These same words travel down through the ages to us this day and resound again in the words of Mother Angelica: *We are all called to be great saints; don’t miss the opportunity.* St. Paul continued to discuss this calling, explaining to Timothy his call to ministry, *“Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord . . . but join with me in suffering for the Gospel”* (2 Tim. 1:8-9a). And to the Ephesians he proclaimed, *“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry”* (Eph. 4:11). To complete these teachings, again from 2 Tim. 1:9, St. Paul explained, “. . . relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace” (2 Tim. 1:9b). This is the essence of Jesus’ call to Conversion for each of us.

“Those whom he called, he also justified . . .” One definition reads: “Justification is a legal declaration from God that you are innocent of sin.” Romans 5:18 provides, *“Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification for all.”* It follows, then, that by placing our faith in the cross of Christ and the path He laid down for us, we are justified. There can be no doubt that through the grace—sanctifying grace—of Baptism our justification is first granted. However, concupiscence—that natural inclination toward sin—remains. The justification received in Baptism can be overcome by sin. Yet, Jesus, in his infinite mercy, provided for this shortcoming. His gift of the sacrament of Reconciliation “offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification” (CCC 1446). Sanctification (a topic for another day) follows behind.

By accepting His call to Conversion, through Baptism and the sacrament of Reconciliation, our justification will lead us to sanctification. But what of “Glorification?” How are we to be glorified? Sacred Scripture provides instances when this glorification to come has been revealed. In Exodus 34:29, *“Moses came down from the Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain . . . Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking*

with God.” Moses, in the presence of almighty God for forty days, experienced the glory of God in which we too can share. Scripture records a second outpouring of this glorification, in the experience of Peter, James and John, witnesses to the Transfiguration of Jesus on another mountaintop. Recall Matthew 17:2, *“And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.”* This is but a foretaste of the glorification that potentially awaits us all. Turning again to St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, *“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.”* The website GotQuestions.org explained it this way, “We may consider glorification as the culmination of sanctification.”

“Called;” “Justified;” “Glorified,” This, then is the natural progression that each of us can know as we continue to study and grow in this amazing Catholic Faith we have chosen.

Mother Mary, in your mercy, pray for us.