

Rite of Election
3/9/14

En la primera lectura, escuchamos la narración, hermosa y tierna, del joven Samuel. Samuel era uno de los profetas más grandes en el Antiguo Testamento. En la lectura, el joven todavía no conocía a Dios. Todavía no podía reconocer Su voz. Eli, su mayor y su mentor, ayudó al joven reconocer y responder a la voz de su Creador.

Hoy día, estamos agradecidos a Dios por la presencia de todos ustedes aquí. El Padre Dios es quien les ha llamado y les ha congregado en este santuario para este paso tan dichoso en el caminar de fe. La gracia de Dios y el buen consejo de muchas personas les han acompañado a este umbral de misericordia. Reconozco la aportación generosa de los sacerdotes, diáconos, catequistas, padrinos, familiares, y amigos que les han apoyado alcanzar este momento oportuno. Ellos han servido a ustedes como Eli ayudó al joven Samuel.

Ahora, espero que ustedes aprovechen la bendición que nuestro Padre Dios y la iglesia les han brindado. Vayan caminando atentos a la voz de nuestro buen pastor, el Señor Jesús. Él es tu buen amigo. Tomen la mano de Cristo en la tuya y sepan que estará a tu lado. Vayan conociéndolo y amándolo

todos los días. Que sea siempre un amigo bien conocido ahora y siempre.

John the Baptist turns the gaze of his disciples to the humble figure of Jesus of Nazareth walking along the shores of the River Jordan and declares, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

This same image will emerge from the prophetic pages of the Book of Revelation. The Lamb of God will appear in the final days sitting on the throne. He would open the sacred scroll and preside over the final judgment of the world.

Between the humble, quiet appearance of the Lamb of God along the shores of River Jordan and the glorious revelation of the Lamb seat at the right hand of Almighty God, is the presentation of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world during the offering of the Mass. The priest holds up the Bread of Life and the Chalice of Salvation. He declares to the assembly of the faithful, "Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world."

As John the Baptist did for his disciples, introducing them to Jesus, and as Eli did for Samuel, helping him recognized the voice of the Lord, all of you who have gathered here have been

introduced to the Lord Jesus. The Christian life is a journey of discovery. You have begun a relationship, a friendship with Jesus. He wants you to become familiar with him. He has opened up His Sacred Heart to you because he wants you to know His heart. He hopes you will open up your heart to him.

The day will come when we will all stand before the Lamb of God seated at the right hand of God's throne. Will that encounter be one between strangers or between long-time, familiar friends? Will we recognize his voice? Will we know the mercy of his kind eyes? Will we recognize the joy of his smile?

You have given much time to studying the doctrine of the Church and the moral teachings of the Christian life. You are learning the habits and manners of good Catholic practice. This is all good. More than all this, the Lord Jesus wants you to know him and his mercy. He has come to take away your sins and the sins of the world. He wants you to see him as the Good Teacher, the Good Shepherd, and your good friend who has laid down his life for you.

Soon you will hear the words of today's gospel inviting you to approach the altar, "Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb." Your share in the Holy Communion gives

you a taste and prepares you for the heavenly communion to come. In the meantime, in this precious time between the waters of Baptism and the judgment day, take the Lord's own pierced hand in yours. Walk with him in friendship. Then, like St. Paul you will confidently approach the throne of the Lamb knowing and loving the Lord as completely as we are known and loved by him.

(1 Cor. 13.12)