

Fr. Vic Gournas Homily notes for Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.
Readings: 1 Samuel 3:3-10; 1 Cor. 6:6-15, 16, 17-20; John 1: 35-42

2Sun.

Samuel & Gospel...Like Samuel we are called...Each of us are called by Name...Will we be able to hear His voice?...What are you looking for?

-2nd Reading...At our Baptism...We gain a family, Vocation, Purpose, Dignity....Immoral acts hurt us individually, but also affects the Body(Church). Confession restores communion with the body...Leads us to have full communion as one (Body/Family/Church) via Eucharist).

-For Peter...He is called - Receives Name Change - Is given a Vocation - Purpose - leading to personal Fulfillment.

-At our Baptism (Priest calls us by name)...(Confirmation we choose a saint's name - We are called by our new name). We join a universal family (Catholic Church). Sacraments restore us to the Body, which is why we need Confession.

-This restoration leads us to the Gospel...Jesus asked the questions that we need to ask...That we long to ask.

-What are you looking for?"...It is a question meant for all people of every time and in all places and situations. It is the question put to the two disciples by Jesus in today's Gospel reading. What are you seeking? What is the purpose of your existence? Who are you looking for? What is the meaning of Life?

WHAT IS LIFE? Thank you Msgr. Pope...

"What is life? It seems the simplest and most basic reality, but it is hard to define in a way that is satisfying. One philosopher I know defined it as "ordered energy." But does that really advance the understanding of the mystery we call life?

What is this secret mysterious force we call life? Yes, it is ordered energy, but it is so much more than that.

When we say that someone dies, what has really changed?

One moment there is life and movement, the next a great stillness as the something we call life has departed. **What is that mysterious force?**

Many decades before his death, Msgr. Pope's father talked to him about the mystery of life. He told him that when he was about ten years old, a powerful thought occurred to him: "I exist." So stunned was he that he said he stayed very quiet for the next three days, just being silent in the face of a mystery too great for him to fathom.

The secularism of our time would hurry us past questions such as “What is life?” **Neither would it have us dwell on other** questions of meaning that the physical sciences cannot speak to, such as:

What is my life all about?

What is the ultimate destiny of all things?

Why is there something rather than nothing?

“No, no,” say secularism, atheism, and scientism. “Hurry along now; there is nothing to see here.”

Indeed, too few ask the question “What is life?” And even fewer accept the imponderable quality of such a question.

What is life? It is a mystery too deep for words. Silent reverence “please” before so great a mystery.

These are some of the lyrics of a song written by Steve Green, a contemporary Christian singer:

-God and God alone, created all these things we call our own;
from the mighty to the small, the glory in them all; is God's and God's alone.

-God and God alone reveals the truth of all we call unknown;
-And the best and worst of man can't change the Master's plan;
It's God's and God's alone.

-By taking the time to reflect and to ponder these deeper questions: only then can we start to escape the survival mode and begin to access this burning fire that seeks to free us from living a life without meaning. This fire that points towards Christ who says we are loved and that all things point, not towards futility, but towards a purpose and hope of extraordinary things to come.

-Man, created in the likeness and image of God but mortally wounded by sin, hungers for truth and meaning...[(CCC, par 1) “God calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength.”]

-But it is not enough to keep and live the faith; we must “also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it...” (CCC, par 1816). We must be disciples by asking ourselves & then others, however we can: What is life? & What are you looking for?

Because in Jesus (We have the answer).

For the Adults

-A friend of Chesterton once said.

“It's easy being an atheist sitting behind my desk.

Not so easy when I am hiking the beloved mountains and trials.”

-(Beauty, Truth, Love) Can open us to think about & ask deeper questions.

For the youth.

-Enjoy being young...please play outside. Please enjoy the beautiful outdoors that will lead you to beauty. Never tire of being awed by the immensity of God's handiwork in His Creation.

The outdoors...Will orient you to ask the deeper most important question:
“What is Life?”...What are you looking for?