

SECOND SUNDAY - B - JANUARY 14, 2018

JESUS TURNED AND SAW THEM FOLLOWING HIM AND SAID,

"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?"

AND THEN - "COME AND SEE"

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE MARIANIST PULSE PROGRAM -

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT BEFORE...

*PULSE - STANDS FOR PARTNERS IN URBAN LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND
EDUCATION*

POST-GRADUATE, SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY THE MARIANISTS

IT IS A MEANS OF SHARING THE MARIANIST CHARISM THROUGH

*ENERGETIC WOMEN AND MEN WHO WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT
ON AN URBAN COMMUNITY*

PULSE VOLUNTEERS MAKE A ONE OR TWO YEAR COMMITMENT TO LIVE

*WITH FELLOW VOLUNTEERS IN A LOWER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD OF
DAYTON AND WORK FULL-TIME A LOCAL NONPROFIT AGENCY, GAINING
VALUABLE LEADERSHIP AND CAREER SKILLS*

OUR OWN PAT AND DAN HUSER ARE MENTORS IN THE PROGRAM

THIS IS THE 2ND YEAR OF THE PROGRAM

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO JESSICA DE GROOT WHO IS A 2017 UD GRAD,

SO ABOUT 22 OR 23, AND A MEMBER OF PULSE COMMUNITY WHO

VOLUNTEERS AT VICTORY PROJECT, A FAITH BASED AFTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM FOR TEENAGE BOYS IN NORTH DAYTON.

JESSICA WROTE A BLOG ON THE UD WEBSITE RECENTLY ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AS A PULSE MEMBER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS...

I THINK IT IS RELEVANT TO OUR GOSPEL STORY TODAY AND JESUS QUESTION FOR ALL OF US,

"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR" AND HIS INVITATION TO ALL OF US TO "COME, AND SEE"....

PRESUMABLY, ANDREW AND HIS BROTHER, SIMON PETER, WERE AROUND THE SAME AGE OF JESSICA WHEN THEY HEARD THE QUESTION,

"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? AND RESPONDED TO THE INVITATION "TO COME AND SEE"

I THINK JESSICA IS RESPONDING NOW AT AROUND THE SAME AGE TO THAT SAME QUESTION, "WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR" AND

THE INVITATION, "COME AND SEE"....

LET ME SHARE WITH YOU A FEW THINGS THAT JESSICA WRITES ABOUT AS SHE HAS RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION AND THE INVITE IN HER LIFE....

SHE WRITES, "IF I HAVE LEARNED ONE THING FROM MY EXPERIENCE SO FAR, IT IS THAT WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF UNCOMFORTABLE AND HESITANT OF YOUR ABILITIES, IT IS LIKELY GOD IS CALLING YOU TO DO SOME GOOD, HARD WORK. HE IS ALSO ASKING YOU TO TRUST HE WILL FILL IN THE GAPS. HE WILL QUALIFY WHOMEVER HE CALLS"

THAT SUMMARIZES NOT ONLY JESSICA'S EXPERIENCE THE LAST FEW MONTHS AS SHE RESPONDS TO THE INVITATION TO COME AND SEE BUT

IT ALSO SUMMARIZES EXTREMELY WELL PETER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, DOESN'T IT?

WE SEE IT PLAYED OUT SO WELL IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP -

JESUS' CHALLENGE TO PETER TO GET BEHIND ME AND DO SOME GOOD HARD WORK - OR HIS BETRAYAL BY PETER

THE PROCESS OF QUALIFYING PETER IS WELL DOCUMENTED AND KNOWN TO US ALL....

IT IS EXCRUCIATING AT TIMES TO OBSERVE PETER'S GROWING PROCESS AS IT PLAYS OUT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES

WE FEEL HIS EMBARRASSMENT, HIS FAILURE, VULNERABILITY AS WELL AS HIS SINCERITY, HIS WILLINGNESS TO LEARN AND GROW -

BECOME A LOYAL FOLLOWER AND COMMITTED FRIEND

LATER IN HER BLOG JESSICA WRITES THAT SHE RECEIVED IN A LETTER FROM A FRIEND TO "BE THANKFUL FOR A GOD WHO KEEPS US GUESSING"....

AND SHE GOES ON TO OBSERVE THAT HAVING A GOD "WHO KEEPS US GUESSING" IS SUCH A HARD THING TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

I WOULD MUCH RATHER TELL GOD WHAT I WANT AND HAVE IT APPEAR AS IF I ORDERED IT OFF A MENU.

SHE FURTHER WRITES, "THAT PRAYER OF THANKS FOR A 'GOD WHO KEEPS US GUESSING' IMPRESSES UPON ME THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT-KNOWING.....

I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THAT IS A MUCH GREATER REWARD THAN

ANYTHING I COULD ORDER OF MY MENU.

BUT THERE IS NO SHORT-CUT TO GET THERE. I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE CHALLENGE OF SURRENDERING CONTROL."

JESUS ALWAYS KEPT PETER GUESSING, DIDN'T HE, AND IT TOOK SEVERAL RATHER INTENSE YEARS FOR PETER TO LEARN THAT LESSON OF SURRENDERING CONTROL - AND TO LEARN THAT THERE IS NO SHORT CUT.

SO WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS ON GOING CALL IN OUR OWN LIVES NO MATTER WHETHER WE ARE 22, 52 OR 92....

THE QUESTION IS ALWAYS THERE...."WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR" AND THE INVITATION IS ALWAYS THERE FOR MORE "COME AND SEE" FIRST OF ALL, RESPONDING TO THIS INVITE MEANS THAT WE WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER BY WHAT WE ENCOUNTER IN HIM ---

JESSICA IS SAYING THAT ISN'T SHE?

SHE REALIZES THAT IS SHE BEING CHANGED FOREVER....

AND WE WILL BE ALSO WHEN WE RESPOND TO "COME AND SEE" - THAT IS THE RISK, THAT IS THE CHALLENGE

THAT IS ALSO THE OVERWHELMING BENEFIT OF GIVING UP CONTROL, OF SURRENDERING TO THE NOT-KNOWING, OF TRUSTING IN THE RELATIONSHIP...

OF REALZING THE FRUITFULNESS OF SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN ANYTHING I COULD HAVE IMAGINED OR ORDERED OFF OF MY MENU...

*IT'S OUR ONGOING VOCATION AS CHRISTIANS - NO MATTER 22, 52 OR 92
TO KEEP RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION -*

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, REALLY?

AND THE INVITATION TO COME AND SEE....REALLY SEE

IT IS ALWAYS THERE....AN INVITE TO LOOK FOR MORE

TO COME AND SEE MORE CLEARLY AND MORE DEEPLY

LET US PRAY FOR A BEGINNER'S HEART.....

LIKE JESSICA AND SO MANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE HER

A YOUTHFUL DESIRE AND ENTHUSIASM TO LOOK FOR MORE IN LIFE....

FOR MORE IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

LET US PRAY FOR A BEGINNER'S HEART...

A WILLINGNESS AND COURAGE TO TAKE RISKS IN OUR LIVES TO RISK

NOT-KNOWING NOW IN ORDER TO EVENTUALLY SEE MORE CLEARLY

TO ENCOUNTER THE PERSON OF CHRIST MORE CLEARLY