

Homily Summary – 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Being Open to the Call of God

Overview: This Sunday's homily focused on *listening for and responding to God's call*. Fr. Greg reflected on how each of us has a "spiritual phone" — our ability to receive the messages God sends us through prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments. When our spiritual phone is "charged," we are able to hear and respond to God's call. Fr. Greg shared from his own journey of conversion: after years of living as a "practical atheist," he began to "turn his spiritual phone on," allowing God to reach him and lead him to the priesthood. Drawing inspiration from St. John Henry Newman, whose school anniversary were celebrated this week, Fr. Greg emphasized that *each person has a unique mission from God*. He also spoke about St. Faustina as another model of faith who heard and obeyed God's call, as well as St. Carlo Acutis who heard God's call to design the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit (which we have part of in our gathering space!). We are encouraged keep our "spiritual phones" charged through prayer, the Sacraments, and openness to God's voice - especially as we pray for vocations during this month dedicated to the Rosary.

Main Points

1. **God Calls Each of Us Personally**
 - Every person has a unique and unrepeatable mission entrusted by God.
 - Like St. John Henry Newman said: *"God has created me to do Him some definite service."*
 - When we say "yes" to God, we find peace, purpose, and joy.
 2. **Keep Your "Spiritual Phone" On**
 - Our relationship with God requires good "reception": prayer, Scripture, and Sacraments keep our hearts open to His voice.
 - Without these, our "spiritual battery" runs low and we miss His daily invitations to holiness.
 3. **Growth Requires Change**
 - St. John Henry Newman taught: *"To grow is to change."*
 - Spiritual growth means ongoing conversion — being willing to adapt, listen, and let God guide us deeper into His plan.
 4. **Models of Responding to God's Call**
 - **St. Faustina** heard God's call to proclaim Divine Mercy, and her "yes" continues to inspire countless souls.
 - **Mary** is the perfect example of someone who always answered God's calls with trust and love. Her "yes" changed the world.
 5. **Our Mission and the Call to Vocations**
 - October is a month of prayer for vocations (in our Diocese) and devotion to the Rosary.
 - Every "yes" to God—whether in marriage, priesthood, religious life, or single life—builds up the Church and brings others closer to Christ.
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Key Scripture Verses

- **Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4** – God's call invites us to faith and perseverance.
 - **Psalms 95:7–8** – "O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts."
 - **2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14** – "Stir into flame the gift of God that is within you."
 - **Luke 17:5–10** – Faith is shown by obedient action in response to God's will.
 - **Luke 1:38** – Mary's response: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."
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Catechism References

- **CCC 30** – The desire for God is written in the human heart.
 - **CCC 1 & 2566** – God always initiates the call; prayer is our response.
 - **CCC 545** – Jesus calls sinners to conversion and to follow Him.
 - **CCC 2030–2031** – The moral life is a response to the Lord's loving initiative.
 - **CCC 2558–2560** – Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father.
 - **CCC 900 & 873** – Every Christian has a vocation and mission in the Church.
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Reflection Questions

1. Is my "spiritual phone" on? Do I take time each day to listen to God in silence, prayer, and Scripture?
2. How has God called me recently - through others, through events, or in my heart? Did I respond?
3. What keeps me from hearing God's voice - distractions, busyness, or spiritual "static"?
4. How am I using the gifts God has given me to serve others and fulfill my unique mission?
5. Do I trust, like Mary and St. John Henry Newman, that God has a definite plan for my life - even if I can't yet see it

Takeaway: God is always calling - the question is whether we're listening. By keeping our "spiritual phones" charged through the Sacraments, prayer, and Scripture, we can hear His voice and respond with Mary's faithful "Yes." *"God has created me to do Him some definite service... Therefore, I will trust Him; whatever I am, I cannot be thrown away."* - St. John Henry Newman

Rhyme summary: If God were to call, would your answer be clear, would your answer be, "yes, God, I'm ready, I'm here!"? Keep your "spiritual phone" charged in several ways: through the Sacraments, prayer, and the Bible each day. Like St. John Henry Newman, who said we each have our part, God calls us as we listen to Him deep in our hearts. So, answer His call, and say "yes" like Mary our Mother, only by this, will you fulfill God's good plan for you, which He has not given to any another.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>