

Ordinary folk "called to be saints"



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A legend tells of Jesus returning to Paradise after His years on earth. The angels asked Him what He had done, and what His plans were for the continuation of His work. He reported that He had shared His life and His purpose with 12 men and these He expected to carry on. An angel asked dubiously "And what if these fail, as one already has done?" The reply came, "I have no other plan. They will not fail."

There was once a Christian congregation torn with discord, careless about the moral laxity of its members and reflective of the cosmopolitan, sophisticated and materialistic characteristics of the day. To this group of very human and in many ways inadequate Christians their minister wrote a pastoral letter addressing them as those "called to be saints." The congregation was the church at Corinth - the minister was St. Paul, (I Cor. 1:2).

It is ordinary folk who are "called to be saints" - called to be salt and light in the world - you and I, just where we are and as we are. This does not mean that we are recognized for our achievements or virtues. It does not mean that we are good enough or that we should be content as we are. This is where we begin, or where God begins with us.

The Old Testament tells of individuals selected by God for specific tasks who at once began to make excuses. Moses pleaded his stumbling speech. Jeremiah excused himself on account of youth and inexperience. Jonah ran away at first. But the great and loving God was able to accomplish much with these people in spite of their littleness in spirit. God was gentle though firm. God laughed at their pettiness and held to the possibility that they would grow.

Though we be fumbling or sinful or weary or reluctant God has strange ways of using us, God's

OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

Q. I wrote, "We share many things in common," and my teacher circled it. What's wrong?

A. In your sentence, share or in common would be enough; otherwise, the sentence is redundant. Try "We share many things" or "We have many things in common." Those two possibilities have the sense of share in common.

servants.

This is the season of Easter. A time when we as Christians reflect particularly on the living Christ among us. A time for us to wrestle with ideas that will enable our pilgrimage to result in worthier discipleship. This is a time to examine ourselves as people who have made a covenant with the living God.

A minister tells of an experience he had as a guest preacher for an anniversary service at a neighboring church. As the choir gathered, the minister introduced him to its members. He found himself wondering how this motley group with strangely pitched voices could ever produce the anthem listed. They were like figures he had seen on a great Paris cathedral.

"Gargoyles," he thought to himself, "Gargoyles - to the glory of God!... why yes, indeed, to the glory of God!" Suddenly the picture changed, and the plain faces took on new light as he began to see them in the glow of the offering of love they were bringing - to the glory of God.

Called to be saints, ordinary folk, you and I, the disciples of today, called to be the salt and light of the world, our world, here and now.

In Marc Connolly's play "Green Pastures" there is a line spoken by the character Noah, "I'm just ol' preacher Noah, Lawd, and I'm you' servant: 'I ain' very much, but I'se all I got."

"I ain' very much, but I'se all I got." What more complete dedication can there be?



Ceramic touches

Youngsters neared completion of their first projects at the end of the third week of the rec department's six-week ceramics course hosted by WayMar Ceramics in Georgetown, last Saturday. Seen showing off their handiwork were Dawn Richardson, Joy Walraven, Eve MacArthur, Ryan Visser, Rachel Desrosier, Angele Desrosier, Lisa Boulanger, Lisa Williams and instructor Robin Bilton. Absent from the photo were Michael Richardson, Jennifer Westman, Cindy Clarke and Bradley Belford. (Herald photo)

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