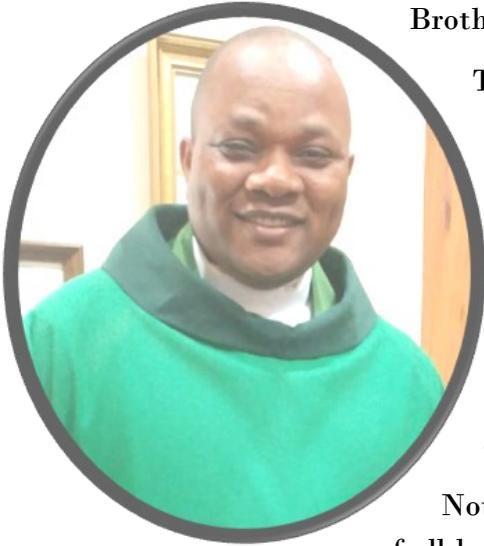


FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today's readings harken back to one of the legendary questions to incoming seminarians by my dear late Bishop Ephraim Obot; "Why do you want to be a priest?" The answer he always expected was, "to give my full time and service to the people of God!" I believe that this answer aligns with God's call to serve in today's Liturgy of the Word; all of the major players, Isaiah, Paul and Peter, when called from their worldly lives into the presence of God, suddenly experience their own smallness.

Notably in the second reading, St. Paul recounts that in spite of all he did to persecute the Church of Christ, he was *still* called, by the grace of God, to be an apostle. What is so extraordinary about these three, concerning their call to discipleship is the grace and courage they received to ultimately leave behind their past and to follow God's divine call.

We need to pray that our encounters with the holiness of God may lead us to recognize the errors of our ways; to realize His presence everywhere and in everyone, to repent of our sins and to remain in readiness to speak and act for Him in our life circumstances. Hence our response may aspire to Isaiah's who says, "Here I am; send me!"

As we are called to serve God, let us remember to teach and practice expressions of reverence for the Lord, such as our bodily gestures. When entering our Church it is most heartening to regard the sacredness of Jesus' Holy Presence in the Tabernacle; to restrain our outgoing selves, slow down, gently genuflect or make a profound bow, blessing ourselves with holy water and the sign of the cross. We can continue that inner adoration by listening to His Word in the readings, sharing in prayers and songs.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that we are all called to share in the ministry of Christ by virtue of our Baptism. Thus, every Christian is called to holiness and this leads us to honor the Lord and to respect one another in God's love through encouragement and forgiveness. If you have been gifted with a desire to serve God and the Body of Christ, we would treasure your gifts and talents in any capacity of service. Please feel free always to phone us or use my personal email if you are answering a call to share and to bless your Church.

Joyous Sunday!