

# God's Insistence, Our Resistance

## Points to Help Homily Preparation from a JPIC Perspective

Readings of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday, January 25, 2009

Jon. 3: 1-5

1 Cor. 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

- The Book of Jonah makes a point of recognizing God's mercy toward all peoples as they repent
- Invite speculation on Jonah's motives for resisting God
- Note the quickness of conversion of the people of Nineveh
- Note the quickness of Jonah's resistant response to God
- 1 Cor. 7 calls for swift action to get one's life in order
- Mark 1:14-20 demonstrates a quick response from the prospective Apostles as they abandon their nets
- Jesus evokes a quick response in saying that this is the time of fulfillment and this is a time for repentance

### ***A Story***

The day after the last presidential election, I attended a conference of Franciscans who minister along the Border between the United States and Mexico in El Paso, Texas. As people began to update the participants on their recent activities and how they were doing, a couple of them talked about a certain experience in their lives as being an Obama moment. Putting politics aside, there is no doubt that the election of Barack Obama was a great sign of the desire for and the actuality of significant change. The participants at this conference talked about an Obama moment as a time when significant positive yet challenging change occurs. And, the suddenness happens as an almost astonishing surprise. At an instant, a massive diversity of the population made their voice heard and made history.

### ***Preacher can invite the congregation to reflect on these questions***

Review your significant moments. Examine your motivations. Explore your resistance, particularly, when confronted with the prospect of promoting social change. Is resistance part of your response? Do we resist because the task is too large and impossible? Do we resist because the task infringes on our comfort zone? Do we resist because somehow the issue at hand doesn't coincide with long-held convictions? In our resistance, do we recognize God's insistence?

As we ponder those questions, we may want to see how we relate to the disciples who abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

### ***From the JPIC point of view, look at our resistance in interest and engagement, and God's insistence in the following areas:***

Peace in Gaza, Immigration, Issues of Life, Climate Change, World Hunger, World Poverty. (*preacher can choose or add issues*)

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