

Daily Homily
1 Week of Advent 2020
St. Andrew, Apostle
Feast
30 November 2020
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I few years ago I attended a conference on a college campus. I was a minority when it came to age, the majority of those attending would have been college aged students. It was not a religious event, so my expectations were in a different arena of life. However, the keynote speaker stood up to offer his lecture and he went to faith and religion. In one line he dismissed the importance of his faith and made some funny comment about how his mother would be so disapproving. The audience of youth, laughed along with him. Here, he had a great opportunity to “change the world” in another way and in another dimension, an eternal dimension, but he stuck with muck.

Today is the feast of St. Andrew. He followed Jesus immediately. The word “immediately” is exciting to me. It is also a bit daunting. It is also scary. Immediately means what it means. Drop everything... your plans, your work, your schedule, your wants, your loves, your will, your life, what you think is everything and all – drop it and follow. There is excitement in that, but there is also this lazy, hazy feeling of, can't there be another way or another day? If that were the case, then it wouldn't be immediately!

The speaker at this conference ... successful and probably a billionaire at this point ... I don't remember any of his advice from that day. Andrew, however, the first Advent saint of the year, his charism, charm, warmth, and love for the Lord ... this successful fisherman, this no body and no nothing ... his story has endured for almost as long as Jesus'. He was the first called. He was the first who followed.

I pray never to be stuck. I pray only that Christ will help me keep moving on from one venture to the next with a sense of purpose and meaning. After all, he said “*follow me,*” and not “*stay right here*” or “*keep doing what you're doing.*” Follow me – there's excitement in that, a holy fear, an Advent anticipation that puts me on the edge of my seat waiting and longing for whatever is next.