

A Reflection from The Rev. Ben Robertson: June 7, 2023

From today's Daily Office readings, "Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.'"

When I read this, I remembered a story I often share when folks ask me about my call to the priesthood - in fact, I shared this story with the Confirmation Class just last month (candidates, forgive me for repeating myself). When I was in college, I heard a priest share the story of his call to the priesthood. He was fast asleep one night when he suddenly awoke to a vision of Jesus standing at the foot of his bed, and this vision instructed him in no uncertain terms to go to seminary. Quite a dramatic story! And I assumed that all clergy similarly received their call. But, as the years passed, I graduated and started working, and seriously began to consider and pray about my call, I was not blessed with a similar vision. Instead, I received my call through the encouragement of mentors, conversations with friends, and work with my home parish. No one ever told me definitely to do this or that, but I perceived the voice of the Holy Spirit in a myriad of small things and ways.

I perceive that same Spirit working and making themselves known at All Saints. Not in some bold, dramatic way, but the Spirit is moving in many small, delightful ways: Bari Pitt's Alleluia Sticks on Easter morning, grins on student and parent faces during the Preschool graduation, joyful noises floating into the office from Miss Anne's Music and Movement, the high school seniors we honored (including Abigail Mulvaney's excellent homily) on Youth Sunday, and simply the buzz of activity around the building as we welcome more folks to worship, concerts, and community events. To paraphrase Christ, these movements are the kingdom of God among us.

As we move into the summer, I pray that we will all look for the Spirit at All Saints, and acknowledge and celebrate when we perceive that Spirit. And as we prepare for the fall, we could wonder about how we can harness these energies for new ministries.