

God's Preparation for our Task. L1  
23.01.82

The aim of this gathering is to look carefully & critically at ourselves and the task that God has entrusted to the Cathedral to witness more effectively and to serve more meaningfully and therefore to become more relevant in our lives to the needs of the community of the Cathedral as well as the communities existing in the vicinity of the Cathedral.

The question we have to ask ourselves is:  
How do we discover that task and how do we prepare ourselves for that task?

Holy Scripture is very helpful in giving us abundant examples of how God prepared individuals & groups for specific tasks:

1. The discovery of the need: God's first & primary action: e.g. Moses & his people (Ex. 3), Saul & the completion of the house of Eli (1 Sam 3), David & the crisis of Israel vs Philistines (1 Sam. 17), Christ & the need of mankind (temptation & temptation).

In each case there was a specific event, a definite happening or set of circumstances, an unavoidable confrontation with a person, group or situation which led to the discovery of the need.

2. The personal awareness of the need:

The facts, events & circumstances on their own are never enough to lead us into a real participation. More needed: personal awareness, emotional sensitivity, conviction of our responsibility. This requires an attitude of loving sincere concern, openness to listen carefully to the need of the neighbour, to try and understand by putting yourself in his or her place as far as possible.

E.g. Moses & the suffering of his people  
Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1 v. 16, 17)  
David and the ~~king's~~ people  
David and the King  
Christ and mankind.

Cathedral: Aged, lonely, mugged, prostitutes, homeless children wandering in the streets  
- Sometimes a vast gap between theoretical knowledge and personal awareness

3. Reflection & prayer as preparation for meeting the need.

The necessity: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Christ, Paul, John & Bartholomew.

The nature: Not vague, impersonal, general: specific, to the point, relevant to a specific reality & need, based on all available facts, requiring detailed preparation & study.

4. Discovery of personal inability:

Eg. Moses and his argument with God  
Jeremiah and his youthfulness  
Peter and his moral weakness

This discovery led to the need for comradeship, community, humility, dependence on others talents, skills, assistance (Aarun),

5. Assurance of God's guidance & sustenance:

5.1- The nature thereof: Eg. Moses, David,  
Ruth, Jeremiah, Daniel

5.2- The temptations thereof:

2.1 - God always meets our sincere inability (eg. lack of skill or experience), but removes our sagacious or our blindness to discover and admit our personalities failures or weaknesses

2.2 - If God has reminded to us clearly the grounds/reasons for lack of progress or problem in discovering how to execute our task, He will not assist in overriding the decision