

The other day someone asked about the capacity of our new church. "Well," I said, "it will sleep 524!" Young Samuel would have liked that. But ideally, we don't come to Sunday Eucharist merely to rest and recuperate, to have a quiet hour after another crazy week. Jesus didn't give us his Body and Blood to put us to *sleep*, but to *wake us up*. "Lord, don't let us sleepwalk through life! Call us by name, as you did Samuel! Show us what it means to follow you, like you did for Andrew!"

It's been said that the Church is not a luxury liner in a calm harbor. It's much more like an aircraft carrier on the open sea: a safe place to land every seven days, to be refueled, to get a new set of directions--then to take off on a new mission.

On Monday, the nation pauses to remember the 80th birthday of a Christian who really was wide-awake, whose life had a mission, and who followed Jesus to his death. In 1934, James King changed both his own name and that of his 5 year old son to....Martin Luther King. Like young Samuel, the boy grew up in churches and became a prophet, a Baptist minister. Martin Luther King Jr. was far from perfect--he struggled with personal weakness throughout his short life, but God called him and gave him a dream. And in August 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared that dream, that call with the nation and with history. "I have a dream that my five little children will be judged, not on the color of their skin, but on the content of their character." 45 years later, the

citizens of this nation chose an African-American to lead the country. Pope Benedict 16th himself congratulated the president-elect.

We all need to believe that our life is meaningful, that we are contributing, that we are doing what Christ has in mind for us. To be a such a terrific pilot that you can safely land a dying jet in the Hudson River. To listen to a call to be a priest, or a permanent deacon, or a religious sister.

But we also follow Christ in very humble ways: Paul is one of our homebound parish members. He is 76, an amputee, and lives in one room of a very, very modest home. Every day, this man prays for me, and every day he prays our Capital Campaign Prayer. I said, "Paul, you are a hero! You will have a place of honor at the dedication of the new church!"