

January 4, 2008  
Friday the Tenth Day in the Octave of Christmas  
Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (US)

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 John 3:7-10

Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9

John 1:35-42

*Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see."*

The invitation seems very clear here. Jesus sees that these men are looking at him, apparently intrigued, maybe even with hopeful expressions. He asks them what they are looking for—we're all looking for something in life. They ask him in return where he is staying. That is a rather strange question. They do not ask who he is but where he is staying. When I put myself into this gospel story, the question behind the question feels more like, "What will it require of me if I truly answer that question?" I think that they sensed a risk of vulnerability if they got involved with this man named Jesus. I think that their answer was their way of tiptoeing around the question, trying to get more information before they revealed too much about what they were looking for in life. Jesus simply says to them as he says to us everyday in various ways, "Come and you will see." I don't know the facts of this story. I don't know if the disciples were hesitant or ready to say yes in an instant. But while I do not know the actual facts, I do know the truth. Jesus invites us everyday to follow him; to come and see what life is like lived for selfless reasons rather than selfish reasons. God has a desire for us that reaches far beyond any desire we could have for ourselves. Yet, far too often, while I know the truth, I find myself reluctant to say yes without hesitancy. Far too often I hedge the question as I think the disciples did in this gospel story.

*"You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."  
~St Augustine*

*"O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire You with our whole heart, that so desiring  
You, we may seek and find You, and so finding You, we may love You."  
~St Anselm*