

January 5, 2008  
Saturday the Eleventh Day in the Octave of Christmas  
Memorial of St. John Neumann

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

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

1 John 3:11-21

Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5

John 1:43-51

*"Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him."*

Lat night my husband and I watched a movie about the Naval Academy. In one scene, a first year student is expelled because he told a lie. It was what we might call a 'little white lie', because the subject matter was not earth shattering. But at its core it was meant to deceive and that violates the honor code of the Navel Academy. In my family of origin, a lie was equally unacceptable. We were not 'expelled' from the family, but it was clear that any lie was the gravest of transgressions. It cost us the trust of our parents and that trust was highly valued by my brother and me. Deception seems to violate the core of God's values as well. This gospel suggests that a true child of God is one who does not deceive, one who is not dishonest, one who is not misleading in their life style or words. As I reflect on this gospel in light of my experiences of the value of honesty as a child, I see the importance of honesty in any and all relationships, including relationship with God. I can still hear my father say to me, "If you want me to believe you, then don't ever lie to me." If I am still enough to really listen, I can hear the same message from God.

*"Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people." ~ Spencer Johnson*