

**Sunday, January 18th, 2009**  
**Epiphany 2**

In the Middle Ages it was claimed that those who followed a "spiritual" career in the church were superior to those who followed a "secular" career. As a result, being a priest, a bishop, or a monk was regarded as a higher calling than other jobs or professions. Rejecting that medieval view, Martin Luther instead stood for the "priesthood of all believers" which says that all work which people do is holy and pleasing to God, without any distinction between "religious" or "secular". My job and your job – my calling and your calling – are all equal ways of serving God. Luther liked to say that a parent washing his or her children's diapers is just as holy and important in the sight of God as the priest who is saying mass.

As baptized people of God, we are each called to serve God in different ways (1 Cor 1:26-2:5). In our baptism God calls us to "bloom where we're planted". In other words, our calling from God gets lived out in the here and now of daily life – in our family, our daily work, our neighbourhood, and our church congregation. God call us to put our faith into practice where you and I are "planted" in our day-to-day lives. Whether we are a pastor, an accountant, a contractor, a parent, a homemaker, a teacher, a business person -- whatever we do -- we are called to glorify God and practice love for our neighbour in what we do. In our daily callings we live out our Christian identity given to us in baptism.

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