

I looked up the word “normal” in the dictionary, and found out that it dates from around 1650; and means “at a right angle to something” or “formed by a carpenter’s square.” These days it means “typical” or “average” or “ordinary.”

Back in the ‘80s, I remember t-shirts and bumper stickers that read “Why be normal?”

Going even farther, an article lists the following traits and habits of “normal” people in our country (this is from a health magazine):

- ... consume too many calories each day.
- ... consume too much sodium, sugar, and saturated fat each day.
- ... do not eat the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables each day.
- ... are sedentary.
- ... are overweight or obese.
- ... don’t wear a seatbelt while riding in a car
- ... are lax with personal hygiene, hand washing, etc.

It gives a whole new meaning to “normal.”

In the first reading we hear Moses speaking to the people about the marvelous things that God has done for them. In other words, Israel did not have a “normal” God.

Jesus, in the Gospel, speaks of what His disciples will have to endure. And this is far from what would be considered a “normal” pep talk, or a “normal” job description.

A parallel to “why be normal” could perhaps be “expect a miracle.”

God calls us to be extra-ordinary ... we are reminded by countless councils, popes, and theologians that everyone is called to holiness ... not to mediocrity.

Our Baptism empowers us with the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual super-powers of Faith, Hope, and Love. If we could engage this in 1% of our day, we’d see our lives ... and our world transformed.

May the graces of this Eucharist move us ... beyond the “commonplace” ... and into the “miraculous.” Let us pray to experience the power of God in our lives today ... this week ... and every day.