

5th Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year C 2/10/19

Lower your nets for a bumper catch

The gospel of St. Luke (5:1-11) brings us the episode of the encounter of Jesus with Peter and his brothers at the onset of Jesus ministry. The episode highlights, among other things, the need to persevere through life's changing scenes and the need to invite Jesus into it, no matter what. Let's learn to call on Jesus and he will deliver us.

Let's picture how this would have happened. Peter had worked throughout the night and had no catch of fish. This might have left him tired, spent, frustrated and literally unwilling to be excited about anything. Just think about the day you realized that all your efforts had been in vain. How did you feel? This was just the moment the savior came into the story. Jesus asked Peter to make for the deep and lower the nets for a catch. **To what extent are you willing to allow God's word to lead and direct you?** What did Peter say? Peter's response was "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." If you like, this experience of Peter can be compared to someone who just reached his breaking point; a student who has tried all she could or like a sinner who falls back readily after every rise or like a spouse who has tried so hard, but things remain the same. It's that time of your life when you say to yourself, what should I do again?

Call such moments, 'Real Jesus Moments' (RJMs) and invite Jesus in. Realizing that we can't do these things with our own strengths, let's call unto Jesus. When Jesus comes into the picture, the first thing he does is to invite you to lower the net for a catch. It's the net of your **faith and prayer**. It's the net of **kindness**, it's the net of **perseverance, love and forgiveness**. Lowering your net on such bad days and moments may appear fruitless and discouraging but trust that your bumper catch is right there. Lower your nets of forgiveness you'll have a catch of peace for your soul. For Isaiah and Paul, this was about admitting their unworthiness before the God of heaven and earth and accepting his purifying grace. What situation do you need to invite Jesus into? And what nets must you lower today? What catch of grace do you seek? Just learn to lower your nets! This is an invitation to cooperate with God to bring about your miracle. Jesus invites me today to persevere and to ask for his intervention. Are you ready?

Fr. Francis Odoom