



Gospel Reflections

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel for Sunday, July 18, 2021 – Mark 6:30-34

Reading: The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.

They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,

his heart was moved with pity for them,

for they were like sheep without a shepherd;

and he began to teach them many things.

Meditation¹: *What does this text say to me, today, and to my life? (Please note: We share one here as an example but feel free to focus on the phrase God is helping to highlight for you.)*

¹ Meditation Question is from *Lectio Divina of the Gospels for the Liturgical Year 2020-2021*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 2020, p. 186

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

Where can I go to pray?

- What word or words in this passage caught my attention?
- What in this passage comforted me?
- What in this passage challenged me?

Prayer: What can I say to the Lord in response to His word? I bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in me.

Contemplation²: What conversion of the mind, heart, or life is the Lord asking of me? I spend quiet time in God’s presence.

How can I make a space for holy leisure in my life?

Action: How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

- Suggested actions to consider: *Can I fast and prayer for the Holy Father’s monthly intention? See [here](#) for list of intentions or in [this place](#) to learn more about the Apostleship of Prayer, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.*

² Contemplation and Action focus are chosen from *Lectio Divina of the Gospels for the Liturgical Year 2020-2021*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 2020, pp.187-188