

Jesus Transforms Us

My dear friends in Christ,

One of the remarkable things about today's gospel is Peter's faith. Simon Peter, a fisherman, was a professional in the fishing industry at the time. As a professional, he knew everything that needed to be known about the fishing season, the high and low tides, what time of the day was the best to make a good catch, what part of the sea would be more lucrative, what is the best fishing gear needed, and of course, he had a fishing license. So, he knew what was doing.

Jesus on the other hand was a carpenter, a craftsman, not a fisherman. Ordinarily, when we have interest in learning about a profession we go to an authority in that field. If you are seeking fishing tips, advice or lesson, you would go to a professional, in this case Peter, rather than to Jesus. From experience, Peter had every reason to think that the fish were not running at all that night. It must have seemed pointless to let down the net – wasted effort. Still, his regard for Jesus was such that he did what common sense would call foolish.

Notice that Peter calls Jesus by the title “master.” He already recognizes Jesus as a person of authority. This tells that Jesus' authority was directed to something more profound: the transformation of our lives. That is why Jesus did not enter Peter's boat to catch fish. He was there for a bigger catch. He went into the boat to get hold of the soul of Simon Peter, to get to the depth of Peter's being and transform him. And because Peter was open to Jesus' presence, he was richly rewarded for doing as Jesus directed. We can never go wrong doing that. His transformation led to Peter being an instrument of transformation to many who came to follow Christ. No longer would he catch fish, instead he would catch people.

Today's Gospel marks a turning point in the relationship between Jesus and Peter. Peter's faith and trust in Jesus led to a high mission; the catching and transformation of souls. With faith and trust in God, do not hesitate to do what God and the Church ask of you, even though it may run completely contrary to widespread public opinion. It is transformative.

Invitation

Today, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity, we will have our first parish **Coffee and Donuts**. This first social event will be hosted by the First Communicants and their families. When I mentioned at their religious education class that they will be the first to host Coffee and Donuts, the children were excited. If the children and their families have prepared to host us after Mass, we truly need to be there to support their efforts.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship with one another and hospitality to newcomers and visitors. I ask our parishioners to support the children and help our parish to be a more welcoming place.

God bless you and your family.

--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule
Parish Priest