

**September 3, 2020 – Thursday of the 22nd Weekday in Ordinary Time**



**Let us always seek to trust in the Lord, reminding and telling ourselves in hard situations of life: “We have been reckoning our own strength, and that fails. Let us turn to God. Let us ring the bells of joy and confidence, and leave the matter into God’s Hands”**

**“Giving ourselves, entirely to Jesus, the Great Fisherman of Galilee!”  
(1 Cor 3:18-23 and Lk 5:1-11)**

The scene is the Sea of Galilee (*Gennesaret* in Greek and *Tiberius* in Latin). The story of the miraculous catch of fish described in today's Gospel is similar to the post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus recounted in John 21:4-14. It is one of the "epiphany-call stories" which directs our attention to the fact that Jesus had his own criteria for selecting people to be his apostles. The reading challenges us to examine our own personal calls in trusting in God's providence and thus to conversion and discipleship.

The Gospel of the Day is a wonderful presentation of the marvels that can be witnessed when one places one's complete trust in the Lord and surrenders one's life – in action and deeds – to the Providence of the Lord. Our Blessed Lord is fully into His ministry of preaching and proclaiming God's Word (Lk 5:1). The Word was transforming people, and, in some time, a wonderful transformation was to happen to a person, who would become a close follower of the Transforming Lord.

The crowds were thronging together, to hear the words of Jesus. But, “standing by the lake, Jesus saw two boats by the lake” (Lk 5: 2). The Gospel says that “the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets” (Lk 5: 2b). This verse, though little and appears insignificant carries a mighty message: the message of the Power of God's Providence. The fishermen, as we would later read, were Simon and James and John and others. They had toiled the whole night but caught no fish, and were now, dejectedly, washing their nets.

The boat was empty – bereft of any fish. But Divine Providence had a mighty plan in this “barrenness”. The emptiness of the boat allowed our Blessed Lord to enter it and make

it His Pulpit for preaching God's Word. The vacancy in the boat prompted our Blessed Lord to enthrone it and make it His platform for calling His First Disciples.

- Had there been fish in the boat in all probability, the fishermen would be in it, sorting and cleaning the fish and would have left no space for the Blessed Lord to preach from it.
- Had there been a mighty catch that night in all probability, the boat, filled with the fish, would not have been there and the vehicle of "catching fish" would have missed the chance to be a "podium for proclaiming God's Word"

Is my life, at this point, empty and barren like this boat?

- Maybe it's been a long time I have been watching and expecting, patiently and faithfully, for my boat to be filled.
- Maybe it's being a horrible wait, sometimes even leading to frustration and hopelessness, for my boat to be filled.

But can I trust Divine Providence, in having a purposive plan for this "emptiness and barrenness"? Later on, Simon would be asked by our Lord to "put out into the deep and let the nets down for a catch" (Lk 5: 4). It seemed illogical, pointless, and hardly reasonable to Simon. It seemed as a confronting questioning of Simon's skills and abilities in his field of expertise. But Simon "let go" of his own prejudices, tiredness, and (possible) humiliation and Trusted in the Mighty Providence of the One, who would be His Life and Master.

And this Trust did not fail him. The net was filled with fish. His mind was filled with feelings of awe. His eyes were filled with tears of repentance. His heart was filled with the joy of surrendering. Here is a beautiful story of how. A competent fisherman failed utterly in his field of competence but is initiated into being a competent "fisher of people", for the Kingdom of God

As Christians, we do claim to be people of faith and belief. But does this "faith" translate itself into real "trust"?

- When hardships come in life, I may proclaim my faith with my lips but do I "trust" Him to take me through?
- When emptiness fills my life, I may perform external works of faith but do I "trust" Him to utilize my barrenness, in the way He wants?
- When toils of life yield no results, I may persist in saying that I have faith but do I "trust" Him to grant me the fruits of labor, in His own time, and in His own measure?

And if I really "trust" in the Lord I would be a person of joy, going about my works without anxieties and radiating serenity and calm even when walking through the valleys of sufferings, even when sinking in the deluge of pain and even when surrounded by the clouds of uncertainty.

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, Let me always seek to trust in You, reminding and telling myself in hard situations of life: "I have been reckoning my own strength, and that fails. Let me turn to You. Let me ring the bells of joy and confidence, and leave the matter into Your Hands"

**Jesus, I Trust In You**