

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, until the time of St. John the Baptist's arrest, Jesus did not begin His public ministry; He still remained in the background. He had been gathering a few disciples; however, He had not yet begun His public ministry. When John was arrested, Jesus knew this was the sign from His Father that the time for Him to take the center stage as the Messiah.

It was at Caphernaum that Jesus began His ministry, calling His disciples, whom He had met before, but were still disciples of St. John. They had spent time with Jesus, they had seen the display of the Divine Power at work in Him at Cana; they had started to get to know him. However, now it was the definitive time for them to answer the call from Jesus, God in the Flesh, to take their proper place in the plan of God as well!

Now at this critical time, Jesus calls them into His full-time ministry, goes to these fishermen, calls them by name, and invites them into His Divine Mission. Although He could have done so, He chooses not to do His ministry alone. First the Apostles are called into that ministry, and eventually, more and more are called. Finally, Jesus has called each of us into this ministry through our Baptism. The Mission of Jesus is now the mission of the Church: "Go out into the whole world, proclaiming the Gospel, and Baptizing them into the Kingdom of God!" Now, each of us is called as His Apostles; however, even the disciples of Jesus needed the unique ministry of Jesus to feed them and fulfill their lives; and so, He continued His unique Divine Presence with them through His Apostles and successors. He still does in His Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Religious.

Jesus still calls men to serve Him and His beloved disciples as priests and deacons, and women to serve as religious. There is no shortage of God's call; there is only a shortage of those who will say yes!

God is calling some young men in this parish to serve Him as His priests. He is calling them to leave behind their personal plans and to trust exclusively in Him; just as He did with Peter, James, John and Andrew in today's gospel. He calls

them to embrace His universal family, rather than the unique joy of a specific family; but, in answering this call, Jesus will fill up their nets.

In a different vocation, He is calling young women to embrace lives of prayer and service to the people of God, His disciples. In the same way, He is calling some young women from our parish to say: "Yes", and to serve them in consecrated lives as Religious Sisters.

To all of these young men and women who are being called, don't be afraid! Take the next step. When you leave behind those things that the world believes is most important, God will give you what is Best- He will fill up your nets with Himself! Finally, to all of us who are His disciples, Jesus also asks us to leave behind what the world promises us will make us happy, and to embrace His call to enter into His service with joy. Everyone of us has been called to be Evangelizers by our Baptism: "Go, he says: teach them all I have taught you to do!"