



## Homiletic Notes for Together in Mission 2019

### February 9 – 10: Commitment Weekend – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the gospel, we see how Peter's faith in the Lord grew so that he could see that what he is called to do for others is what Jesus does for him (Luke 5: 1-11):

- Jesus looks to Peter for help, and he knows that Peter has what he needs: a boat! How privileged Peter must have felt when Jesus asked him to put out from the shore a bit: "I can do that!"
- But Jesus knows he can do more: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Peter hesitates: "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing..." This is his livelihood, he has knowledge and experience enough to doubt that what is being asked of him doesn't make sense. Besides, he is tired and has very little to give, and to expend it in a losing proposition, as indicated by the night's experience, is foolish!
- But it is Jesus who asks! Jesus whom he has seen in action! Not long ago, they interceded with him about his mother-in-law, who was "afflicted with a severe fever...He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them" (Luke 4: 38 – 39). And it wasn't a one-time thing, "At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them" (Luke 4:40). That was Jesus! The same Jesus that now asks him to move beyond his knowledge and experience and trust that something beyond his expectations is going to happen. He could not but say yes: "... at your command I will lower the nets."
- And oh, how beyond his expectations it was! Beyond even what they and their nets were prepared to handle! All because he trusted that the extraordinary things that Jesus did among ordinary people in Galilee he could do again with the ordinary tools of Peter's trade.

Where are we in our own faith that calls us to let the Lord use what we have so that many others may know and live in him? Do we feel we have nothing to offer? Do we think it too little? Or, have we thought about this long and hard and figured out that it is not going to work? Perhaps, like Peter, we need to recognize what the Lord has done for us and trust that he is looking to do the same for others now through us. Can we commit to his invitation and say, "at your command I will lower the nets," and I will give of myself, of that which you have given me.