



Feast Day: Oct. 22

Pope St. John Paul II: Mission

Introductory Prayer: Lord, I thank you for gathering us here again as a parish family. I believe that you have called each of us to holiness and I trust in your grace to make it happen in my life. You are love itself, and you ask me each day to receive your love, and to give your love to others. May the witness of Saint John Paul II be a reminder to me of what is possible if only I choose to **do your will**.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #1: (www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiTW1sKnXZo)

Luke 5:1-11 Cast Your Nets.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaycr5cn91A)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Walter Schu, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

1. The Leader: Christ knew that to get someone to commit their life to Him, directing an interesting story to the general public would not be enough. Personal attention was in order. Christ stepped into Peter's boat and asked him for a favor, a simple task: "Put out a short distance from the shore." Christ's first tasks are usually not that hard for us to execute: simply material compliance and a little generosity will do. But if we let him ride with us long enough, he will eventually ask us for something that demands faith and may go against our reason or personal comfort - something that takes us "out into the deep." Saint John Paul II was asked by our Lord to risk much for the Kingdom, but that was all predicated upon the little everyday "fiats" of his life.

- a) Have we ever been invited by our Lord to "put out into the deep"?
- b) In looking back, can we see how the Lord has prepared us for battle?

2. Do not be afraid: St John Paul II in his inaugural homily repeated Christ's words: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ." Fear and a lack of courage can paralyze a man and make him accepting of evil and injustice in both his own life and in society. St. John Paul refused to accept the world as it was. His commitment to truth in the face of tremendous fear and uncertainty was unwavering. Such courage is possible where there is faith in God's love and mercy, as demonstrated in the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord. Such faith comes to us through prayer, and as St. John Paul exhorts us: "Confidently take up the Rosary once again. This prayer will help you to be strong in your faith, constant in charity, joyful and persevering in hope."

- a) When you think about your future, what causes you fear?
- b) Have we committed to the daily Rosary? If not, why not?

3. Be fishermen of men: Jesus calls Peter and commits him to the mission, ordering him to be a fisherman of men. In Jesus those rough and tough laborers will have an experience of power, of courage, and of trust. And so then, "they will abandon everything and follow Jesus!" Saint John Paul II frequently talked about the universal call to holiness. Each of us, by our Baptism, have been transfigured into "another" Christ and are thus called to live holiness and to make

disciples for the Kingdom. Regardless of our vocational calling, God has a mission for us to complete that will not get done if we ourselves do not do it. Especially, in our role as parents, a large part of that mission is to form our children into disciples of the Lord.

- a) How have we formed our children into disciples? Where do we still have work to do?
- b) How can Mary, our Mother and Queen, help us in our mission?
- c) What do I need to leave behind to follow Jesus?

Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Write down the mission (as best we understand it) that God has given us.
- Commit to praying the family Rosary.
- Attend at least one daily Mass per week (Saturday mornings work for many people).

Closing Prayer: One decade of Scripture Rosary: the first Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation.

Verses to be recited before each Hail Mary:

1. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin, and the virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1: 26,27)
 2. "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." (Luke 1:28)
 3. When she heard him she was troubled at his word, and kept pondering what manner of greeting this might be. (Luke 1:29)
 4. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary for you have found grace with God." (Luke 1:30)
 5. "Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." (Luke 1:31)
 6. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and of His kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)
 7. But Mary said to the angel, "How shall this happen, since I do not know man?" (Luke 1:34)
 8. "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you." (Luke 1:35)
 9. "And therefore the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)
 10. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)
- (Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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