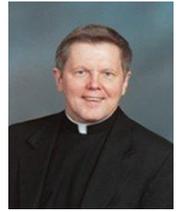


Jerry's Journal

There is no article this week.

Fr. Jerry Slowinski



“Marc” My Words



We hear a great deal about the Archdiocese of Detroit’s “catch” phrase, *Unleash the Gospel*, don’t we? It is a call to do some introspection and then put out into deep water. We are called to get out of our comfort zone and live our Catholic dignity and faith outwardly as a sign to others. We cast our nets of example into those deep waters and see what we catch. We may come up empty or our nets may be full to the breaking point.



Today’s Gospel story has Peter and company “striking out” while fishing overnight, which for them would have been the best opportunity to haul in a big catch. Yet they catch nothing. Remember that they were fishermen by trade and had the skills to be able to earn a living at fishing. Despite all of their skills they still came up empty on their own.

Now Jesus enters the scene, getting in their boat. He tells Peter and company, the experts, that he has a better way. Jesus gives them directions to put back out into deep water this time and to lower their nets for a catch. Peter, despite his knowledge and “expertise” acquiesces to Jesus’ directions despite being contrary to the “norm.” Lo and behold, by listening to Jesus they haul in a catch so big their nets were breaking. Peter and company were definitely out of their comfort zone and had to call for assistance.

I have a couple of thoughts about this Gospel passage. First, what we think is best may not be in God’s eyes and it may not be a part of God’s plan for us as individuals, as a parish, a Church, and as a nation. This is also the reason we may think prayers are not answered because it is not part of God’s plan or what is best for us. Second, when we listen to God and go all in with his plan for us, we can do great things, well beyond what we could ever do on our own.

We, too, are called to put out into deep water and risk the “storms” that can crop up. Yes, it may make us uncomfortable. We, like Peter and company, can call for assistance. Jesus will be with us throughout our “fishing expedition.” We must remember that when we journey out into deep water to *Unleash the Gospel* by dropping our nets - by wearing our faith on the outside - we cast off the darkness of secularism and political correctness. We put on Christ and we will always have Jesus with us because we are all in the same boat. Jesus will help us if we listen to his directions and abide by God’s will. We, like Peter and company, just might be surprised by what we haul in. At the very least we will haul in God’s...

Peace, Love, and Blessings,

Deacon Marc

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

