

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



To discover the call of Jesus is an astounding thing: it brings about a conversion, a change of life. To be a Christian means to obey the word of Jesus and follow His example. In order to do this, you must give up your “surface ego,” your life of “appearances/show” to live a deeper life, one that brings out the best in you. The same call is being made today. “Come, follow Me,” “Push your boats out from the shore,” “Lower your nets.” As in the past, there are people who are quick to respond: Peter, Mary, the disciples, the Seven Holy Founders, Saint Philip Benizi, Saint Juliana of Florence ... and you? To accept and hear the call of Jesus is to accept questioning your whole existence, sometimes radically, to accept entrusting yourself to Him so that He can transform you.

Lk 5: 1-11. Now he was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing around him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon’s – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.’ ‘Master,’ Simon replied ‘we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.’ And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their

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Vocation Newsletter

nets began to tear, so they signaled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, ‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.’ For he and his companions were completely overcome by

the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. But Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.’ Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.





At Jesus' word, lower the nets! Jesus gets into Peter's boat - the Church, the people saved from-the-water; He invites Peter to move away from the shore and lower his nets. In the boat, with Jesus in command, Peter becomes a new type of fisherman – "a fisher of men" (Lk 5:10). In the treacherous, deep waters of this world, he will cast out the net of the Gospel of salvation and will pull mankind from the menacing waters into the boat – that is the Church. It is a great work of "lifesaving." If Peter acts at the command

decision. Discernment cannot last forever. St. Peter believed that Jesus was Lord. He trusted Jesus. He did not trust his own faith in Jesus. In discerning a religious vocation, we need to trust both Jesus and ourselves. We need to trust Jesus that in calling us, he will equip us with all that is necessary to live and serve as He calls. We need to trust ourselves that we do have the faith to serve God and others as Jesus invites. Discernment cannot answer every question we have, nor will it show us what our future life as religious might be. What

What do you feel you are being invited to do?

What sign has the Lord given you today?

How have I responded?

of Jesus, his mission will meet with success, enormous success. His small boat will not be big enough for all those who will believe. The mission Jesus gave him will live after him (cf. Mt 16: 18). The net of the Gospel will save so many people from the treacherous depths of evil in which mankind is drowning. If Peter does not act at Jesus' command he will catch nothing, he will lower his nets in vain.

discernment does help us clarify the call of Jesus and show us that we have the faith to follow Jesus. As you continue to discern the call of the Lord for your life have faith and do not be afraid to follow where Jesus calls. He calls us because He believes that you can be His presence to the world.

Know that we Servites are praying for you.

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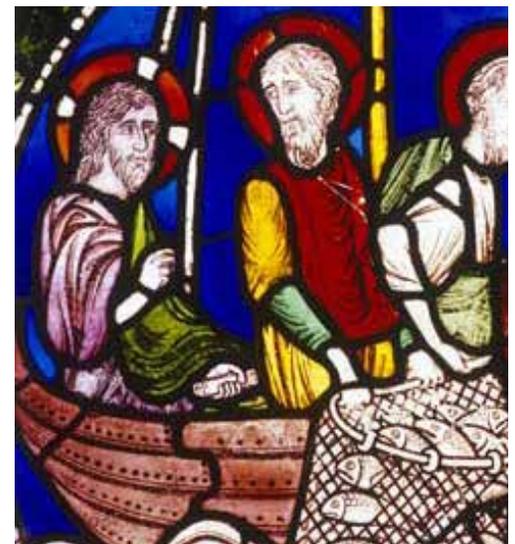
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follow



Take some time to ponder this question: **what do you feel you are being invited to do?** Write your thoughts in a journal or on a piece of paper. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in pondering this question. Every evening take a little time to review in silence your day with the Lord. After you have asked Him to clear your mind, ask yourself: **what sign has the Lord given me today? How have I responded?** Give Him thanks, and, if necessary, ask His pardon.

What St. Peter lacked was courage to live the faith that Jesus gave Him. In discerning God's invitation to follow Him as a religious brother or priest, it is great to participate in "Come and See" retreats, to read and study about religious life, to pray about religious life, but all of our discernment must lead to an authentic



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