

Tuesday, March 17, 2020;
Third Week of Lent - Feast of St. Patrick
1 Pet 4:7-11; Psalm 95(96):1-3, 7-8, 10; Luke 5:1-11

Theme: Put out into deep water..."

St. Patrick's feast this year is dampened by the COVID-19 nightmare, holding the entire world hostage: Hardly any St. Patrick's Day parade anywhere this year. This calls for prayers; intensive prayers that our merciful God would save our world from the scourge of the deadly virus.

We are unworthy of God's intervention because of our sins, but today's gospel encourages us not to give up. When Peter discovered Jesus' identity upon the great catch of fish, he wanted out of this awesome divine presence. Jesus responded by inviting him to discipleship.

That gospel encourages us to never give up. When we are not successful, it is sometimes because we have been trying to do it all alone. Let us invite or allow Jesus into our boat, and live by his instruction. No matter how unintelligible his promptings are, Peter's experience shows us that "God's word never returns empty."

Jesus dares us to put into the deep in challenging times. There is a catch, a good one, for those who put their trust in him. Many panic now and even propagate end-time threats because of COVID-19. Peter's excellent advice for us is: "pray better, keep a calm and sober mind, and continue in love."

Merciful Lord, come to our rescue. Amen.

Fr. Maurice Igboerika