

Day 1: Intercession for Renewal of Diocese – Collaborative ministry

Scripture

“And passing along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little further he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.” Mark 1:14-24

Meditation

When Jesus preached the gospel message he called others to follow as his disciples and he gave them a mission - "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did he choose? Smelly fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power.

When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not think we have nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Do you believe that God wants to work in and through you for his glory?

Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the gospel. Do you witness to those around you the joy of the Gospel and do you pray for your neighbours, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

As priests, religious and lay people we are called to a dynamic and collaborative engagement where all of Christ's faithful use their gifts and talents to build up the body of Christ. Each of us, working to our full capacity in faithful response to our call and in the power of the Holy Spirit can help to transform our diocese.

Prayer

Help us Father to follow your Son Jesus on his way of love. Grant that we may bring the Good News of your love and mercy to those around us.

Bless your church in Paisley, led by Bishop John, our priests, religious, deacons and lay faithful with renewed hope and joy in building your Kingdom. In Jesus name. Amen.