

Jan 25, 2015      3rd Sun in Ordinary Time  
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 "The Call of the First Disciples"

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Deacon Randy Kokke Homily

I recently read an article about pelicans that I'd like to share with you this morning. If you've ever seen pelicans in action, you know they're great fishermen, or fisher-birds. So the story goes that these pelicans were hanging out near a fleet of fishing boats here in California. The fishermen on the boats would pull into the little harbor, and clean the fish right on the spot, throwing the heads and the rest of the unusable fish parts into the water.

The pelicans picked up on this, and began eating the leftovers without having to go out fishing. And if you're a pelican, that's good eating. So for weeks, they just sat by the harbor and waited for the fishing boats to come in.

After a while, the fishermen found out they could sell the fish waste, and so they stopped chucking it into the water. The pelicans were caught unprepared. They continued to sit and wait for the fishing boats to come in and throw free food in the water. And they grew thinner and thinner and seemed able to do nothing about their situation.

Wildlife officials came to check out what was going on, and concluded that the pelicans had forgotten how to fish. So what they did was to bring pelicans in from another area to join the flock and teach the starving birds how to fish again.

Brothers and sister, I pray that when we come to worship the Lord, when we come here to church, we aren't just coming as one might come to a restaurant -- to be waited on, and to be fed, much like those starving pelicans. I

pray that when we come to church, we're coming to be fed -- Yes -- but also to learn, once again, or even maybe for the first time, how to go fishing.

Lord I pray that as we come to church that we think of church as both a spiritual restaurant and a bait and tackle shop. We come here to be fed, yes, but we also come to load up with some bait and tackle to help the Mater Fisherman.

Lord you've caught us in your net for sure; as we are here this morning in your presence. However, Lord if we've become like those starving pelicans, let us confess this and make changes in our lives. Holy Spirit guide us and direct us to be good productive fishers of men. Lord you picked these first disciples, these common and ordinary men to be examples; to show us that we your common and ordinary people can too do extraordinary things with you help. Help us to focus our lives to a life of service of you through serving others. Lord Jesus, send your Holy spirit to help us guide others to you, through our words and through our actions.

Amen and God Bless