

5th Sunday C Cycle homily 2-10-19

- **Put out into the deep!**
- **Comments by Archbishop Vigneron: put out into the deep!**
 - **We are tempted to think of church as being a member of a club.**
 - **We come each week**
 - **We look good;**
 - **We see our friends;**
 - **Give a few bucks in the collection;**
 - **We get our spiritual refill for the week.**
 - **We don't necessarily show care about the person sitting next to us.**
 - **We don't see the need to reach out to others in need in our world.**
 - **We don't get involved in unleashing the Gospel in our parish or family or world.**
- **We are kind of like Peter, in today's gospel: he was a fisherman, decent fisherman, one of the good old fellows.**
- **We are also like the people on the shore who came to hear Jesus and went home after hearing a good homily.**

- Jesus gets into Peter's boat to preach to the people: He sits next to Peter. Peter and his friends were comfortable being close to the shore with Jesus.
- But then comes the difficult words of Jesus: Put out into the deep!
 - Peter, James and John had heard Jesus preach previously;
 - They had seen his miracles.
- But now he says: Put out into the deep
 - They had been fishing all night and caught nothing!
 - Put out into the deep! Place your trust in me.

(Pause)

- Yes, our call as disciples is to put out into the deep! I have been reflecting on the chapters of Rediscovering Jesus: His generosity, his willingness to forgive, his preference for the poor.
 - (story of Mimi and Aaron Brown)
- But we, like Peter, are sinners; surely God could not be calling us....

- to lead in the Church,
- to witness in the world, our workplaces and schools and neighborhoods? We get stuck spending our hours in front of our TVs and computers and tablets and cell phones.
- **Wes, can easily treat our coming to church like coming to a club.**
 - We come looking good
 - We come to meet our friends
 - We come to get a spiritual boost.
 - It is where we want to be buried from.
 - It is like going to the club, or going to the athletic center.

We come and get filled and go. No want no demands of us. No commitment from us. We don't have to greet the person next to us. We don't have to reach out to someone we don't know at the greeting of peace or reach out to people at another table at coffee and donuts. We stay in our comfort zone both in church and during the week.

But God is inviting us today to encounter him and others at a much deeper level.

PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP!

- Story of Prophet, Isaiah, in the first , Holy, Holy...who will go for us ...Here I am, send me.
- Story of Jeremiah: too young but open to the call of the Lord.
 - My 8th grade calling
- Jesus is calling us just as he called Peter with all his warts and wrinkles, just as he was...fisherman, family man, one of the men of the town
 - Peter knew himself to be a sinner.
 - Yet he encountered Jesus, proclaimed Jesus as Lord (first time in the gospel anyone called Jesus) and followed him.

He left EVERYTHING and followed him.

Peter still struggled, but he followed him.

PAUSE

What is your response to God's call today?

- Out of the 700 registered households, only 338 households gave anything at all this past year to the support the work of the church.
- How many people volunteer time to serve in the church and with our outreach programs to those in need?

Jesus calls you and me today. His word is simple. If you want to encounter him,

Put out into the deep. Put out into the deep. Put out into the deep.