

**Return to the Lord!
Be reconciled to your brother!
Rend your hearts not your garments!**

*Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

February 7, 2016

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

We catch a ball. We catch a train. We catch a cold. We catch a meaning. We catch a lot in our everyday living! And, yes, we sometimes “catch” people. A fiancée might be told she got a good “catch”. “Catch” means to intercept and hold. Don’t drop! Hang on! What a marvelous “catch” Jesus makes in today’s Gospel! Jesus makes such a bigger catch than Peter! After fishing all night and catching



nothing, Peter obeys Jesus, putting out his boat and nets once again. He makes a great catch of fish. Even more, he comes to a great insight about himself. Encounter with Jesus leads Peter to see himself as he really is (“I am a sinful man”), and to become what he is not yet: a follower of Jesus participating in his saving mission. Jesus “caught” Peter. He will “catch” us too. All we need to do is heed Jesus’ word.

The miracle of the catch of fish is the bridge to another miracle: hearing the Good News and living it. The disciples’ willingness to be caught enabled them to see more deeply into the truth of Jesus’ teaching. It’s the power of Jesus’ good news that drew them to follow him. Today we are the “catch” that make the Good News visible when we allow God to work in and through us.

Words to reflect upon: **willingness to be “caught”**

CHOOSING — ACTING LENT

FASTING — Return to the Lord!

ALMS — Be reconciled to your brother!

PRAYER — Rend your hearts, not your garments

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Jesus And Our Participation In It

Jesus comes to us in the ordinary events of daily living. The Gospel invites us to look at the simple ways we live the Gospel to indicate the ways we have changed our purpose in life to follow Jesus. For example, in the generosity of so many volunteers, in the faithfulness of husbands and wives, in the unselfishness of pastoral workers, in the uncomplaining suffering of the sick, in the gracious wisdom of the elderly we see faithful followers of Jesus living his teachings. Our “yes” response is to imitate these good behaviors and by doing so we are faithful followers. Living the paschal mystery means we respond to God in these little, everyday things. The astonishing thing about this Good News is that we are all made worthy followers simply because God calls. We allow ourselves to be caught.

Words to reflect upon: **God calls, we allow ourselves to be caught**

*Jesus Christ is the face of
the Father’s mercy.*

- Pope Francis

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

For it is from your goodness that we have this day to celebrate on the threshold of the Season of Lent.

Wednesday we will fast and abstain from meat.

Today we feast.

We thank you for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us.

We thank you especially for one another.

Prepare us for Lent.

As our feasting fills us with gratitude so may our fasting and abstinence hollow out in us a place for deeper desires and an attentiveness to hear the cry of the poor.

May our self-denial turn our hearts to you and give us a new freedom for generous service to others.

We ask you for these graces with our hearts full of joy and stirring with readiness for the

Lenten journey ahead. Amen

A REFLECTION ON JOEL 1:13-14, 2:22-26

As we prepare for the Season of Lent

By Angie O’Gorman

Joel, likely a priest himself, first calls the priests to penance and fasting. They, in turn, call the people to a community meeting and holy fast. In the midst of loss, Joel insists that if all repent, the power of God will restore the community. It is because of who God is that Joel can say this. The Hebrew God participates in life by bringing restoration from devastation. That participation comes in the form of God’s Spirit, poured out on the community—women and men, young and old. On the Day of Yahweh, says Joel, the divine presence will come, like an invading army, an irresistible force. But beforehand, the people must repent and purify themselves, not to placate God, but to be opened to the restorative work of God among them. Otherwise, they might miss it. God can only do so much.

Words to reflect upon: **God participates in life**

Mercy is the willingness to enter into the chaos of another.

— James F. Keenan, S.J.

MERCY-ING

Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this **Holy Year of Mercy**:

- Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.
- Send a card, flowers, gift or note to someone on the 6-month anniversary of his or her loved one’s death. By then most people have stopped recognizing their grief.
- Hold your tongue.
- Offer to run an errand (groceries, dry cleaning pick up, dog-walking) for a busy parent or homebound person.
- If you can’t sit down beside a homeless person to talk for a while today, at least send a donation to a ministry that does do this (such as **La Fondita de Jesus, Iniciativa Comunitaria**).

Mercy is the hashtag #PorteOuvrte or “Open Door”, that scores of Parisians used on the night of the terror attacks there to signal that they would open their homes to anyone who needed shelter.

— LITURGICAL CORNER

The liturgical season of **Lent** begins with this week with **Ash Wednesday**. The ashes that will mark our foreheads are both a symbol of our repentance for our sins and a sign that we truly seek to listen to the voice of God calling out “Come back to me, with all your heart”. That is the invitation of each **Lent**. Wednesday is our day to accept it. **Salvation is always up close and personal**.

Anything worth doing is worth preparing for and Lent is certainly worth doing. Creighton University has some excellent resources available to help us at www.onlineministriescreighton.edu. **Praying Lent** has several good links. Good reading...May Lady Wisdom and the Holy Spirit, continue to guide us on our journey.

Also see: <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent> and <http://sacredspace.ie/>

FASTING

Pope Francis has asked us to reconsider the heart of our Catholic practice of fasting during Lent quoting St. John Chrysostom who said: “No matter how much time you spend fasting, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great”. This isn’t to downplay the role of sacrifice during **Lent**. **Lent** is a good time for penance and self-denial. But, once again, Francis reminds us that these activities must truly enrich others: “I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt”

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

1 Timothy 2:1

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill:

pray Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie and Don Maziarz**, and Olga Pérez. *Let us pray together as a community tomorrow, the **Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita**, for the millions of people that have been victims of modern day slavery. May we stand firm in our resolve to create a slave-free world.*

Praying with Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8



1. When you examine these readings, what might you see that Isaiah, Paul and Peter have in common?
2. God had some big tasks in mind for Isaiah, Paul and Peter. What might be some small things or baby steps that God could call us to do first, till we get used to saying yes to bigger tasks?