

SUNDAY Plus

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III Year A****Sunday of the Word of God**

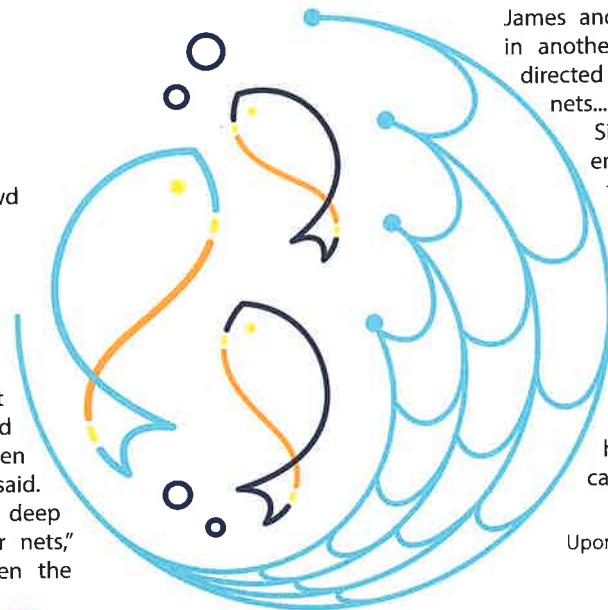
Launch out into the deep

Simon and his partners spent a fruitless night... They cast awhile with the small circular nets that sometimes yielded enough fish for the personal use of the fishermen and their families, but this morning not even these yielded a catch. Depressed from the wasting of a night's work, Simon and his partners set about washing the nets and putting them on the rocks to dry. It was while thus engaged that Simon saw Jesus of Nazareth walking along the shore,

followed as usual by a crowd of people...

As he taught, Simon and the others continued to wash the nets and spread them upon the rocks. But they had performed these tasks so often that little attention was required and they were able to listen intently to what was being said.

"Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets," Jesus said to Simon when the



sermon was over... With Jesus still in the boat, he and Andrew finished piling the nets and rode a little farther offshore, followed by John, James and their father Zebedee, in another boat. Then, as Jesus directed them, they let down the nets...

Simon was holding the end of the net when he felt the strain upon the cords against his powerful hands... and at the same moment... he heard John cry out in wonder at the size of the catch...

"Fear not," Jesus said quietly. "From henceforth you shall catch men."

Frank G. Slaughter,
Upon This Rock: a novel of Simon Peter, Prince of the Apostles

May I put the word of God at the centre of my life. May I listen to that word, pray with it, and put it into practice. Amen.

Regardless of personal cost

Very sick, and hospitalised elsewhere himself, [Fr Maximilian Kolbe] was a true Samaritan. Whenever I called him, he always came right away... Many times, this was in the depths of the night or during snowstorms, and he himself might have a fever. In the case of the dying, I noticed he frequently came running without having taken the time to dress adequately against the cold. I remember one night there was a violent rainstorm when I telephoned that there was no time to lose. He came with Communion for a dying girl, not at all concerned about the rain or the mud and left happy.

Anna Wojtaniowa Gibas, quoted in *A Man for Others: Maximilian Kolbe, Saint of Auschwitz*, in the words of those who knew him

It is up to us to be docile listeners to his voice and faithful ministers of his plan of salvation, mindful that God loves to communicate himself, not in the roar of thunder and earthquakes, but in the "whisper of a gentle breeze".

Pope Leo

St Peter: newness

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

For Peter, Jesus' resurrection changed everything. He was restored, commissioned and empowered by the Holy Spirit. He who disassociated himself from Jesus, afterwards stood before a huge crowd at Pentecost calling them to repentance. Something dramatic had happened inside him and he communicated this change in his first letter. Christ's resurrection transformed Peter from his status before God to his responsibility to others. Easter is a good opportunity to discover what changes we need to make in the light of the resurrection. Jesus asks us, like Peter, to look back, see where we have come from, what we have done, accept his healing and forgiveness, and embrace his future. The darkness of Peter's threefold denial is transformed by the light of the resurrection, giving him and us the chance of a new beginning. In acknowledging all that has hindered us, we can look forward to becoming who we really are – healed and whole.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthew 4:12-23

Monday:
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday:
2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19
Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday:
2 Samuel 7:4-17
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday:
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29
Mark 4:21-25

Friday:
2 Samuel
11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday:
2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17
Mark 4:35-41

Next Sunday:
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12