

**Today is Thursday the 2 September, in the
22nd week of Ordinary time.**

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord... Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ .

Begin to see this scene in your mind's eye . . . the crowd pressing around Jesus at the lakeside. . . the sights and sounds and smells of the lake: the boats and fishermen washing their nets... who are you in this scene? . . . one of the crowd near Jesus or hovering on the edge of the scene... perhaps Simon or one of Zebedee's fishing team, James or John... Perhaps Jesus himself? . Take some time to imagine the scene and the people. What is it like by the lake? Don't worry getting the details right – this is about sensing the general atmosphere. . .

What is the mood among the crowd. . . among the fishermen, as they also watch Jesus and listen to him... What is he saying? How do you feel as you hear him?... Take time to let the scene and the story unfold . . .

Now Jesus speaks: words of promise and invitation... Whether you are in the crowd or one of the fishermen, how do these words strike you? 'From now on you will be catching people' – what does this mean for you, within your own experience?

The narrative ends here but this is only the beginning of the adventure as fishermen become disciples. . . let it continue in your imagination . follow as one of the crowd, watching others being called . . . or perhaps as Zebedee, seeing his sons leave... as Jesus, gathering his disciples to spread the good news... as one of the new disciples, perhaps wondering what they have got themselves into... speak to them allowing this story to continue in some way that feels spontaneous and unforced, noticing what feelings are involved as you play your part in it . . . take your time in giving yourself an opportunity to speak with Jesus or with any other character, saying whatever comes to mind...

Let us pray.... +

Dear Father - Please let us truly hear you and see you. Open our eyes and open ears to your voice. Let us see and hear with open hearts.

Amen.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Pray for us!

