

Year A 3rd Sunday Homily Outline

Next Sunday we kick-off Catholic Schools week with the Parish Appreciation Breakfast after the two morning Masses. Free of charge and put on by the school for the parish to say “thank you” for your generous support.

Friday February 3rd from 6-8pm in Camerman Hall we will be hosting Mr. Danny Flynn for a special night on the Value of Liberal Arts: Reviving Catholic Education. Please RSVP online at www.starofthesea.net

COME AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.

Intro

The man who says “yes” to the call of Jesus Christ has the opportunity to make a profound effect for the good on the world.

1. The Call of the First Apostles/Priests

The first thing Jesus does as He begins His public ministry is to invite men to follow Him.

“COME AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.”

and the Gospel tells us:

AT ONCE THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.
HE WALKED ALONG FROM THERE AND SAW TWO OTHER BROTHERS,
JAMES, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE, AND HIS BROTHER JOHN.
THEY WERE IN A BOAT, WITH THEIR FATHER ZEBEDEE, MENDING THEIR NETS.
HE CALLED THEM, AND IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR BOAT AND THEIR FATHER
AND FOLLOWED HIM.

The first apostles saying “yes” to the Lord will change the whole course of human history as the “ripple effect” of their lives continues through the ages.

2. We don't have enough priests today for many reasons

Not enough young men are saying “yes” to the Lord and leaving everything to follow Him.

For lots of reasons:

Celibacy

The scandals of the past decades

Difficulty in the idea of a lifelong commitment

Fears

Worldly desires

It is not a “normal” life

There is only one response to all of these: Jesus Christ.

In speaking to seminarians at World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI said,

“the seminarian experiences the beauty of God’s call in a moment of grace which could be defined as ‘falling in love.’ It is only when a young man has had a personal experience of Christ that he can truly understand the Lord’s will and consequently his own vocation.”

Conclusion

“The modern world boasts of the enticing door which says: everything is permitted. It ignores the narrow gate of discernment and renunciation. I am speaking especially to you, young Christians, particularly to the many altar servers who have come to Rome these days on pilgrimage: Pay attention! Your life is not an endless series of open doors! Listen to your heart! Do not stay on the surface, but go to the heart of things! And when the time is right, have the courage to decide! The Lord is waiting for you to put your freedom in his good hands.” – St. John Paul II from his homily at canonization of St. Edith Stein in 1998

A Prayer for Vocations

God our Father,
Who wills that all men be saved
And come to the knowledge of Your Truth:
We beg you to send
Laborers into Your harvest,
And grant them grace to speak Your Word
With all boldness; so that Your Word
May spread and be glorified,
And all nations may know You,
The only God, and Him whom You have sent,
Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea,
Pray for us.