Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Come, follow me.

First Reading :  Jonah 3:1-5,10. The people of Nineveh believed God

Psalm 39:2,4,7-10  Teach me your ways O Lord

Second Reading:  1 Corinthians 7:29-31 The world in its present form is passing away

Alleluia Verse:  Alleluia, alleluia. The kingdom of God is near. Believe the Good News. Alleluia!

Gospel:  Mark 1:14-20. Come Follow me and I will make you fishers of men

Com. Verse:  I am the Light of the world says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:  Jesus proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand, so we ask for mercy for ourselves, our Church and our nation.

Leader:  We pray for our Pope Francis and his brother bishops. (pause)

All:  May they discover new ways to share the joy of the Gospel with all they encounter.

Celebrant:  We pray to the Lord

All:  Lord hear our prayer

Leader:  We pray for the people of our Country (pause)

All:  May we, like Nineveh, repent from our self-serving ways, and be more generous in serving our neighbour and work for justice and peace in our land.

Celebrant:  We pray to the Lord

All:  Lord hear our prayer

Leader:  We pray for parts of the world who do not know peace (pause)

All:  May they in the midst of their strife not lose sight of the hope of your Kingdom.

Celebrant:  We pray to the Lord

All:  Lord hear our prayer

Leader:  We pray for all Christian people (pause)

All:  May we hear God’s call in the midst of our lives and have the courage to respond faithfully.

Celebrant:  We pray to the Lord

All:  Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant:  Father of wisdom, you call us to follow you when time is right, help those gathered here to be willing to trust that those efforts are not in vain. Hear these prayers, and draw us closer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR POPE SAYS: Pope Francis

“We need to ask ourselves, have we learned how to weep, how to cry, for somebody left to one side, for someone who has a drug problem? Do we weep when a child takes drugs? Do we weep when a child is forced into labour? Do we weep when a child is abused? If you don’t learn how to cry, you can’t be good Christians. This is a challenge.”

Addressing thousands of Filipino youth during a Mass at the University of Santo Tomas last Sunday morning, when a little girl asked him “Why does God let so many

Please Pray For the sick: Les and Clare Fern, Margaret Schubert, Joe & Rosemary Valle, Br James Maher MSC; Josephine Di Lembo; Margaret Morrissey, Margaret McDonald, Margaret Heagney (Catherine Phillip’s mother) Loretta Grimster, Nancy Supple (Anne Davey’s mother)
sponded positively. These people were willing to be a sage for them and they surprisingly and unexpectedly re-sponded positively. These people were willing to be a second glance have touched the lives of others in ways they thought they would not do. Jesus preached a new age which was to be continued by his followers. As we observe others or ourselves we notice that the new age comes in the moments when we go beyond ourselves, refuse to yield to the status quo or to what is comfortable, act generously towards another, work for peace rather than inflame a divisive situation. Jonah was changed by the people he was sent to. He had a harsh message for them and they surprisingly and unexpectedly responded positively. These people were willing to be changed. He wanted to bring down punishment upon them, but it was through them, these Ninevites, these not so nice people, that God touched Jonah's heart. He was able to see goodness in them and also to see that the God he thought he knew was not really what God was like. Unlike the disciples in the Gospel who caught fish, Jonah was caught by one. Can we be open to seeing God at work when we or another, even one that we may personally despise, acts out of compassion and sensitivity rather than indifference and neglect?

Living the Gospel: On Going Fishing.
How often do we write someone off? How often do we not expect much from them? But God chooses the unlikely to proclaim the Good News. It has happened through women, children, poor people, people living with sickness or disability, indigenous people, gay and lesbian people. We are all called to proclaim the Good News of a new age coming. We are called to 'fish' or draw people in as we hear in the Gospel. We are also called to listen. It might mean that those to whom we to proclaim the 'good news' might actually proclaim the 'good news' to us. We are not just those who will 'fish' for others but from time to time we too will be 'caught'. Jonah was trying to avoid his call and was taken into his ministry in the belly of large fish. Like Paul he was knocked down by the unexpected ways in which God brings us to our senses. How many of us have had the experience of not being in places where we have been 'knocked to the ground' by those to whom we are sent?

Those in the preaching profession do not always realize that they are not the only ones who live out the Gospel call or proclaim it. Teachers, waiters, bartenders, doctors, nurses, parents, neighbours, and complete strangers to us do it. These people can through their commitment and generosity also 'fish' us, proclaim to us, without even using the Gospel. When asked if he had been preaching the Gospel, St Francis of Assisi famously said: “Yes and once in a while I use words!” People in our cities and towns – homeless, ex-prisoners, people who are addicted - who we would not give a second glance have touched the lives of others in ways that made all the difference by not taking advantage of the other, forgiving offences, being patient with the people who are different or annoying, refusing to take part in gossip, sharing what they have, being sensitive to others who are vulnerable.

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