**FEBRUARY 06 – V SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."**

**Let us read, in light of the narration of the vocation of Isaiah – at least concerning the first part – what happens with the miraculous catch. Simon spends all night on the lake, but the nets remain empty. Jesus invites him to put out into deep water and he comes back to fish, only with the faith in the Word of Jesus. Since the Word of Jesus is most pure truth - "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." – the nets are filled so much to need the other boats present on the lake to pull all those fish up and take them to the shore. This is history. This is faith, instead: seeing this great miracle, Simon sees Jesus as true man of God. Before this great man of God, he feels himself to be the last among men. Before the great holiness of Jesus, he feels himself to be a sinner. This is what happened to Isaiah before him. Isaiah sees the glory of the Lord and before it, he sees himself as a sinner that dwells in a people of sinners. The Lord purifies him with the burning coal drawn from one of the seraphim of the altar. While Isaiah is the one who presents himself so that the Lord sends him as true prophet among his people, in the case of Simon it is Jesus who calls him and entrusts him with the vocation, instead: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Jesus calls him, but he does not change his “ministry.” Instead of catching fish with the net in the sea of the Galilee, from this moment on he will have to catch men in the sea of the world. He will have to catch fish with the net of the Word of Christ Jesus. One must immediately make one essential point.**

**Every earthly “ministry” is easy to learn. It is enough a little of good will and some time to apply. Man can learn any “ministry” and carry it out with expertise and great abilities. One never learn the “ministry” of catching fish. It is not a “ministry” one learns. Instead, it is a mystery that must always be lived as a learner, as a disciple and never as a teacher. The Teacher of the fishermen of men is only one: the Holy Spirit. When one separates from the Holy Spirit even for one only day, one stops catching men for the kingdom of God. One immediately turns himself into fishermen for the prince of the world. Only the Holy Spirit is the one who knows how men will have to be caught. He alone will have to give us the right net of his Word from time to time. The right net is the righteous Word, the only Word that can touch the heart and open it so that it lets itself be conquered, attracted by Christ Jesus. An example will help us understand. Jesus is before a hostile woman. He does not even give Jesus to drink. But she neither realised that the request of Jesus was a first net given to him by the Holy Spirit as true net of approach. Immediately afterwards, the Holy Spirit gives Jesus a second net. It was the net of the beginning of a dialogue. The woman lets herself be caught in this net and becomes herself missionary of Jesus: “Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."** **The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him. (cf. Jn 4, 1-30) As Jesus has always been learner and disciple of the Holy Spirit, so every fishermen will always have to be learner of the Holy Spirit, as well.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 5,1-11**

**While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.**

**The Holy Spirit is the one who always gives the right net for every man. Whoever is not a learner of the Spirit of the Lord will always lack in the right net and no man will ever be caught through him. May the Virgin Mary come to our rescue.**