

5th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
February 9-10, 2019

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Living Catholic in the 808: Put out into Deep Water

Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of
Our Lady of Peace

Last week in the gospel, Jesus began his ministry in the synagogue. Today, he moves to shore of a lake. He is not content to wait for others to come to him. He goes out to meet them where they are. Christ also comes to us where we are. But, he loves us too much to leave us there. He invites us to "put out into deep water"; to venture out of the shallows of our security and superficiality to a place where we can find God's abundance. Where the water is deep, there the fish are big and plentiful.

Our first response, like Peter, is often to plead fatigue and frustration. We have tried for a long time to do better and to be better, but have failed. We are tempted to give up and, like Peter, to ask the Lord to depart from us because of our sinfulness. The evil one wants us to give up trying to be good and to believe the lie that we are not good.

It is precisely at this moment that we need to try again, as Peter agreed to do, but with a difference. Now, we must allow Jesus to show us where to fish. He can see below the surface of things to help us to find the depths of the richness available to us. If we allow him to lead us and we are willing to follow his directions, we will not be disappointed.

All of us, like the apostles, are called to be fishers of men and women. Christianity is caught before it is taught and we are the catchers. We must help one another come to know Christ. In doing so, we employ the nets of love and truth. We, like fishermen, keep a low profile so that the fish won't be scared away. We humbly entice one another to get into the boat where Christ is so that he can take us to the shore where eternal life and abundant life are found. How much are we willing to leave behind so that we can follow him?