



Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Jon 3:1–5, 10

1 Cor 7:29–31

Mk 1:14–20

The Fish That Didn't Get Away

We have all heard stories about the extraordinary fish that got away. We might even have such a story of our own. Two of today's readings are fish stories, but with a slight twist. They are also "call narratives." Last week we reflected on the call to listen and to follow; this week it is a call to go out to bring God's mercy to others. This is a call to "catch" others, as one might catch fish—a metaphor that would have delighted fisher people.

In the beginning of the Jonah story, the prophet did not catch fish; one caught him. Later, the word he preached was very successful, his own spitefulness notwithstanding. The Ninevites were the sworn enemies of the Israelites, and Jonah did not want them to repent, but to be punished by God. Nevertheless, God's mercy was stronger than Jonah's spite. In the Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to set down their fishing nets and to launch into a life of catching people

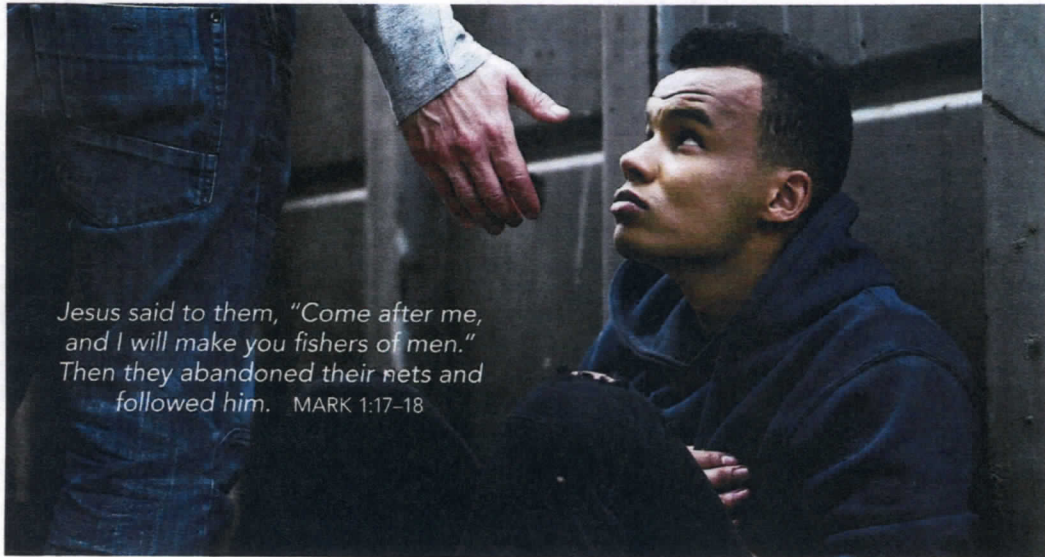
with the word of God. There is an eagerness here that is absent in the Jonah story. Furthermore, the disciples left their primary commitment—their patriarchal family—to accept Jesus' invitation.

As Pope Francis declared, we are all missionary disciples. Are we eager to respond, as were Jesus' disciples? Or do we think we should attend only to those whom we judge to be deserving? If so, have we forgotten that no one deserves God's mercy? It is a free gift to all.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ *In what ways does your manner of living proclaim the mercy of God?*
- ✦ *Pray that you might realize these ways if you do not already.*



© 2021 Liguori Publications • Liguori, MO 63057-9999

Dear Padre,

Mark 1:15 quotes Jesus as saying, “Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Since the Gospels hadn’t been written yet, what was he referring to?

These days when we say the word *gospel*, we tend to be talking about one of the four written Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But the word *gospel* wasn’t originally tied to any particular written form of communication. In fact, the Greek word we translate to *gospel—evangelion—*simply means “good news.”

When Jesus says, “Repent and believe in the gospel,” he is basically saying, “Repent and believe in the good news.” For Jesus, the nature of that good news is clear: Jesus is announcing the coming of God’s kingdom, the initiation of the fullness of God’s reign on earth. Jesus preaches this good news in word and action and makes it real through his life, death, and resurrection.

After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, many of his followers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to go into the world and continue Christ’s gospel proclamation. The apostles and disciples did this by word of mouth at first, but within a few decades they decided to commit the message of Christ’s good news to writing, giving us the Gospel books we know today.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death, and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervor.

LETTER RECOGNIZING MISSIONARY WORK, OCTOBER 22, 2017



© 2021 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 65057-9999. Printed in USA. *Imprimatur:* “In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on June 19, 2020, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivitano, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.” No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-525-9521, or visit Liguori.org.

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 25
 Conversion of
 St. Paul the Apostle
 Acts 22:3–16 or
 Acts 9:1–22
 Mk 16:15–18

Tuesday

JANUARY 26
 Sts. Timothy and Titus,
 Bishops
 2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5
 Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday

JANUARY 27
 Weekday
 Heb 10:11–18
 Mk 4:1–20

Thursday

JANUARY 28
 St. Thomas Aquinas,
 Priest and Doctor
 of the Church
 Heb 10:19–25
 Mk 4:21–25

Friday

JANUARY 29
 Weekday
 Heb 10:32–39
 Mk 4:26–34

Saturday

JANUARY 30
 Weekday
 Heb 11:1–2, 8–19
 Mk 4:35–41

Sunday

JANUARY 31
 Fourth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time
 Dt 18:15–20
 1 Cor 7:32–35
 Mk 1:21–28

 **Liguori**
 PUBLICATIONS
 A Redemptorist Ministry