This Week's Edition:
Becoming Fishers of People

DID YOU KNOW?

The fish was a secret symbol for Christians in the early Church. After Jesus resurrected and ascended into heaven, all of his followers were in danger because the Romans would imprison or execute Christians. When a Christian met a stranger on the road, the Christian would draw one arc of the fish outline in the dirt.

If the stranger drew the other act, both believers knew it was safe to talk about their faith!

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 signal to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats 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.

Gospel Reflection

I wonder what Simon was thinking when Jesus told them to put out their nets again...

______________________________________________________________

I wonder how they felt when their nets came back completely full...

______________________________________________________________

I wonder why Jesus asked the fishermen to gather people instead of fish...

______________________________________________________________

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Word Puzzle

What did Jesus tell Simon, James, and John that they would be doing as his followers? Write the letter that appears on each fish in the blank that matches its number.

7 1 5 9 1 4 6 7 10 2

3 8 4

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Today’s gospel shows Jesus providing for His disciples. He doesn’t just provide them with the bare minimum, He provides them with way more than they need! There were so many fish that their nets were breaking!

Although February is too cold to go fishing, we can still celebrate Jesus’ generosity with a fish feast!

**A Fishy Recipe**

**Ingredients**
- 1 lb. fish fillets or steaks
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. milk
- 1/2 c. dry bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp. margarine/butter, melted

**Directions**
1. If fish fillets are large, cut them into pieces to serve five
2. Stir salt into milk
3. Dip fish into milk, then coat with breadcrumbs
4. Place in a well-greased 9x13 pan. Pour melted butter over fish
5. Place pan on rack, slightly above the middle of the oven. Cook uncovered at 500-degrees until fish flakes easily with fork, 10-12