

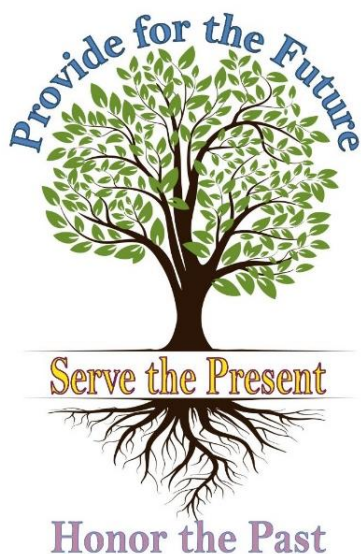
Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

Third Sunday Winter Ordinary time ~A~ January 26, 2020

Introduction Capital Campaign

Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a); I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

Homily, Father Ed Hislop



We begin today the good work for which we have so long prepared; a vision by which we seek, in the words of today's Psalm, to *"gaze on the loveliness of the Lord, and contemplate his temple."*

Gazing and contemplating, we might be like those in the boat, still doing things in the same old way. The words of the Gospel today, if we attend to them in this context, can be both stunning and challenging: *"Come after me."*

Those to whom Jesus was speaking were going about their everyday work, in the same way they had always done—casting their nets into the sea. Into their ordinary life Jesus unexpectedly appears. It must have been an astounding experience, evoking both intrigue and, I would think, a certain amount of hesitancy.

Perhaps some of them felt that there was no need to change their ways, their boat, their nets or their work and attitudes. They were doing just fine. Why do something new? *"I will make you fishers of many peoples,"* was the answer, people, the

primary motivation for "the work," the focus of Jesus presence and call: *"I will make you...."* But first you must come; be open, trust and engage in a new kind of work with a deep care and a willingness to remember from where you have come: the value of who you are now; and readiness to prepare for what is yet to be.

Jesus inspired them by his call, his invitation, to value even more the many gifts given to them, by the people who had cast a net for them and shaped the lives they now lived—the many who showed them how to believe, how to pray, how to give. The many on whose life and vision their present life and future rested.

"Come follow me," even as you do the work of mending your life, home, and present way, even as you wonder if what is needed can be accomplished. There is nothing naïve in Jesus Call, nor in what we are called to. There is risk; maybe failure, but the nets being mended must now be replaced—they cannot be fixed anymore. Leave the boat you are in and follow the vision and "the way." HONOR THE PAST, but do not live in it. Leave the security of days gone by, symbolized here by the father in the boat, and come after me. Come, not to forget father or mother, but to do what from them you have learned and feel anew. To do for the many what they have done for you. To give even more than they have given. Come and believe more deeply; come and act more generously, come and become more clearly a "holy communion" a dwelling place for the many to *gaze upon the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his Temple.*

Come and see, in the places you live and breathe, the people you are to embrace,

serve and love. Come and be the Gospel, the good news of healing and hope. **SERVE THE PRESENT**, in its anguish and joy; embrace the people who live today with a harvest of hope.

In all of this you will **PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE** when you will no longer need to mend torn nets or cast them in the old ways. You will be light in the darkness that people will see and they will come bringing you abundant joy.

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Be like the Tree of life, that awesome mystery, whose roots are planted deep in God's earth, filled with blessed memory, honoring the past. Be like that Tree of life, that awesome mystery, whose branches

reach to the sky, different but undivided, bringing life, serving the present with loving hands and open heart.

Be like that Tree of life, that awesome mystery, reaching for the sky, the holy light in the darkness, building a new creation, providing for the future. Tree of life, that awesome mystery, may we see ourselves in you!"

Let the song of the psalmist echo through this year:

*"One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek;
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord,
and contemplate his temple."*

