



# Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
February 6, 2022

## Casting Our Net for Jesus

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**D**ina Bellotti, painter of *Miraculous Haul of Fishes*, was an artist active for many years in her studio just off the Via della Conciliazione, in front of the Vatican. As a family friend of St. Paul VI, she came to Rome when he became pope. Her works are simple, yet evocative. With a few brush strokes, she brings a scene to life and places us there.

In her painting, Peter appears tired, overworked, and frustrated with the lack of results. A stranger on the shore, Jesus of Nazareth, asks him to cast the net again. Although the logic of fishing

dictates otherwise, Peter follows his hunch and trusts this voice for one more cast.

We've all been there. We work hard to do the right thing. We try to extend God's kingdom, and sometimes it seems our results aren't up to par. If we listen to Jesus, we never come up empty. Sometimes we fish where we're not called, led by our own passions and stubbornness. There we reap what we sow. Other times, we simply go along without heart. We can feel caged by fate or a hopeless situation. But then we wake up to the fact that even there we can love. Even then we can hear his voice, feel his love, and focus on responding to his call. Then miracles can happen!

Jesus loves everyone, not because they are saints, but because he wants them to be. So rather than look at why we shouldn't be blessed by him, turn to him, then receive his gratuitous love. Then without fear, share that experience with others as fishers of men. +

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not because they are saints,  
but because he wants  
them to be.***

## Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8**

"Whom shall I send?

Who will go for us?"

"Here I am [Lord]," I said; "send me!"

**1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or**

**1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 11**

He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

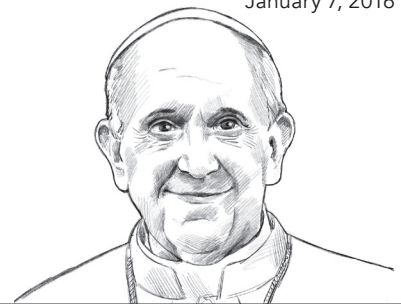
**Luke 5:1–11**

[Simon said,] "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

## A Word from Pope Francis

We can make many pastoral plans, conceive of new methods for drawing people close, but if we don't take the path of God who has come in the flesh...then we are not on the path of the good spirit. [Instead, what prevails] is the Antichrist, worldliness, the spirit of the world.

—Morning meditation,  
January 7, 2016



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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- Do I invest in my work, home, and social responsibilities as a response to the call of Jesus?
- Should I take more time to regularly quiet my soul so I can hear that call about where to cast my nets?

# You Can Be a Stealth Evangelist

By Kathleen M. Basi

My paternal grandmother used to pray the rosary every morning before Mass. On Sundays, when my sisters and I would file into the pew, she would greet us with hugs and kisses, her beads swaying, and then return to her prayer. In adulthood, I learned that she began this practice on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

That same grandmother had a magnetic Holy Family statue on the dashboard of her car right up until dashboards stopped being made of metal. I'm pretty sure she taped it down for a while after that.

My maternal grandparents used to invite their grandkids on long RV vacations. I remember praying the rosary on my knees behind the cab of the camper as the interstate unfolded (well before seat-belt laws).

My father used to begin every day with a reflection on Scripture. Often, as my sisters and I tore through the living room looking for shoes and getting breakfast before the country bus arrived, Dad would be sitting in his easy chair with his eyes closed, praying.

My childhood was steeped in the devotions of the Catholic Church, and although I never questioned it then, I realize now that those continuous contacts with the faith of my elders were a silent witness, an unobtrusive evangelization.

I don't think I ever had a conversation on matters of faith with my father's



mother, for instance. Yet I knew her faith was central to her identity.

Usually I interpret that statement attributed to St. Francis—"Preach Jesus, and if necessary use words"—to mean "live a good life, and if people know you're Catholic, you'll be inviting them in." Sometimes, though, it is the overt, yet quiet, practice of our faith that makes the biggest impact on those within our spheres of influence.

Perhaps what we need is a "stealthy" approach to witnessing, one in which we do what nourishes us spiritually without trying either to hide or to display it.

What part of Catholic culture and spirituality is meaningful in your life? Where and when can you set aside a

few minutes in your day for a rosary, for quiet contemplative prayer, for Scripture and Catechism study? Is there space on your cubicle wall for an unobtrusive yet meaningful work of religious art? What about a screen saver with an inspirational message?

If we can find a way simply to be ourselves in the world—devoted Catholic Christians—perhaps we'll find we not only evangelize to others but also to ourselves. +

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**PRAYER**

*Lord, you are the Word made flesh. Open my heart to share your message of love and hope with the people around me.*

—From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

February 7–12

**Monday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13 / Mk 6:53–56

**Tuesday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 8:22–23, 27–30 / Mk 7:1–13

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 10:1–10 / Mk 7:14–23

**Thursday, St. Scholastica:**


1 Kgs 11:4–13 / Mk 7:24–30

**Friday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 11:29–32; 12:19 / Mk 7:31–37

**Saturday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 12:26–32; 13:33–34 / Mk 8:1–10

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