

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 21, 2024

Gospel: (Mark 1: 14-20)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

Reflection:

The transformation that is a necessary consequence of hearing Jesus' call to discipleship takes place through repentance. Jesus calls and the disciples abandon all to follow him. Jesus' call was to simple fishermen while they were plying their trade. The starting point for Jesus' call to discipleship isn't with "holy" or "perfect" people; the starting point is with sinful humanity. The good news is that we *can repent* and believe. All we need to do is let go and let our daily lives be characterized by repentance and belief. Jesus gives us a continuing call. Our transformation doesn't come all at once but takes place throughout our lives. We only have to repent and believe in the gospel, for indeed the kingdom of God is at hand. (Living Liturgy, p.46)

Vincenzian Meditation:

Our Mission Statement tells us: Organized locally Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, **Vincenzians see the face of Christ.**

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

How have you seen the face of Christ in those you serve?

Closing Prayer:

For the grace to respond to the call of discipleship, quickly and decisively,

-Merciful God, hear us!

For the grace to witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice,

-Merciful God, hear us!

For the grace to collaborate with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes,

-Merciful God, hear us!

For the grace to make no distinction in those we serve because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ,

-Merciful God, hear us! Amen

