

As I write this I will be on a retreat with brother priests until February 18. Please pray for us. Below are notes from my homily based on the readings for the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

First speak of Essenes (Strict Jewish sect who existed during the time of Jesus) / They held OT Prophecies, so through them people knew what signs to look for): Isaiah, Paul, Peter were all called...Be Fishers of men / Most prophets did not heed nor follow this call the first time, so there is hope for us.

As the 2nd Vatican Council declared / We are ALL Called to be Saints / I am currently reading a book on St. Pope Gregory the Great / It reminded me that like the Great Saints / Jesus placed you and me here and now for a Specific Reason ... To live in deep waters is to be alive.

Deep Water (Jack Beers / Dynamic Catholic)...

-Are we living a superficial life / Just skimming the surface of what we could be / Simply surviving the day / Seeking instant pleasure from people and things.

-Jesus wants to get into our boat / Spend time with Us / Wants to help us go deeper / To live deeper / Transform our lives / Teach us to live fully by: (Courage, Fortitude / Teach us responsibility, kind / Give faith, hope, love)

Story of a boy with Cerebral Palsy (Paralyzed from the waist down):

-Fred Rogers / Had a gentle presence / Brought out the best in people / Boy with Cerebral Palsy / Thought that he was a burden / Heard a preacher say that God made all things / Because he was a burden to others he believed God did not value him / He gets to meet Mr. Rogers / His life hinged on this meeting / Mr. Rogers simply said: Pray for Me.

-The result of those words and the meeting / The little boy knew if Mr. Rogers asked him to pray for him / A holy man like Mr. Rogers / Then God did value him / He was of great worth to God / Mr. Rogers was asked why he said that / He believed the little boy through his struggles must be very close to God / So his prayers would be powerful.

-Mr. Rogers was a simple man with depth / Living in the deep.

-We have all met someone who just has that something about them (a depth) / They are living in the deep waters of joy and abundance / They draw us in like Mr. Rogers / Their secret / They let Jesus into the boat / And in a sincere way / To FOLLOW HIM.

**St. Paul says: But by the grace of God I am what I am,
In the Gospel the Deep Water = Sanctifying Grace**

-All those fish in the net / SUPER-ABUNDANCE / When we seek to live a deeper life versus skimming the top of the water / We will experience super-abundant Grace

-Like Peter who acknowledges his sinfulness / We have to be open to Sacrifice / Being honest with self and God / Give God our weakness / Be open to the others in our lives / The more we give away / The more we shall receive / The deeper our sacrifice for others / The Deeper our nets will go / Super-Abundance.

Like Fred Rogers: When we are in the deep waters we shall be people of (Courage, Fortitude, responsibility, kindness, faith, hope, love)

**How to get this Sanctifying Grace
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION / Prayer / Mass / Eucharist / Confession
Do you know Jesus? It's that simple (Give a moment each day to Him)**

And like Pope Gregory / God has you here at this moment for a specific purpose / When we understand this / We will truly live life as we plumb the deep waters.

God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven

—Question 6, Lesson the First, Baltimore Catechism #1

WE ARE FULFILLED BY BY THE OTHER (Self Gift / Sacrifice)

**Chase Hilgenbrinck New England Revolution
Is the Professional Soccer Player now Priest.**