

For Simon Peter, the humble fisherman from Galilee, this was the first day of the rest of his life.

From this day on life became **meaningful**, purposeful, and fulfilling. On this day there was a **revolution, a change** in his life.

It's the type of change we are all should be thirsting for. And if we follow Peter's **example**, we can have it.

This revolution had **two ingredients**: First, Christ had to knock Simon Peter out of **his** comfort zone.

Second, Peter had to step into **Christ's** comfort zone. And, Jesus does his part masterfully.

He tells Simon Peter to "Put out into **deep water** and lower your nets for a catch."

Now, Peter was the **expert** at fishing, not Jesus. The boat belonged to him; he was the CEO of a fishing company.

And, Peter knew that you don't catch fish in **broad daylight**, especially after a night without any catch at all.

But Jesus just looks right at him, inviting him, challenging him, and **pushing him out of his comfort zone**, into the deep water of the lake, and into the deep spiritual water of faith.

That's the first ingredient in the revolution: Jesus knocks Peter out of his comfort zone.

Now comes the second ingredient. Peter actually **obeys**. He doesn't obey because he **understands**.

He doesn't obey because he can figure it out.

No. He obeys only for one reason: because **Christ** is the one issuing the command: "Master... **at your command** I will lower the nets."

Peter lets Jesus push him out of his own comfort zone; he takes the risk of **stepping into Christ's comfort zone**:

"Master, at your command, at your **word**, because **you want** it, Lord, I will do it..."

That's the formula for Christian revolution, the revolution that brings meaning to life.

One way in which God is always asking us to put out into deeper water is in the area of **bearing witness** to him

In **inviting** others to believe in him, follow him, and enter into a personal relationship with him.

As baptized Christians, we all share in this **mission** that Jesus gives to Peter of being "fishers of people."

If we truly love our neighbors, we'll really want them to come **closer to Christ**, the only source of a truly meaningful life.

But helping people come closer to Christ can make us feel **uncomfortable**; it can push us out of our comfort zone.

Yet, if loving others is the source of true joy, then bringing others to Christ - the best way of loving them - will be the source of **our greatest** joy.

I have often wondered why so many more people come to Mass on Christmas and Easter than during the rest of the year. Where do they all go on the other Sundays?

They must have a **certain** amount of faith. Otherwise they wouldn't come at all.

Does their faith **disappear** for 363 days of the year?

I don't think so. Maybe it is because that we haven't **helped** them discover the satisfaction of a **dynamic friendship** with Christ.

Maybe they are just waiting for someone to **invite** them to follow Jesus more closely.

It made St Peter **uncomfortable** to row back out into deep water in broad daylight. But he did it, because our Lord **asked** him to, and his nets were filled to **overflowing**.

Our Lord is asking **us** to row out there too, to be fishers of men. That is what this Year of Faith is all about. It may be out of our comfort zone.

But pushing ourselves into the comfort zone of Jesus can lead to amazing results in our lives and the lives of others.

What is striking in this gospel story is that the manifestation of divine power and abundance happens at the work place.

These fishermen people encountered the divine while struggling at their jobs.

And God calls us where we live our daily lives. There He invites us to be actively involved in His plan for humanity—the reign of the kingdom of God.

Today's Gospel invites us to examine the daily places —our work, family, school, neighborhood and world—with an emphasis on our workplaces. Too many of us are out of our comfort zone to practice our faith in our daily settings.

There seems to be a disconnect between our faith community on Sunday and the various communities of our everyday lives.

During this Year of Faith, every day, we Christians are called to be salt and light in the marketplace.

For most of us, it means living and proclaiming the gospel throughout the week in the most ordinary situations.

Proclaiming by words and deeds that witness to a God of infinite, goodness, abundance, and love that the people in today's scriptures experienced.

Just as Jesus saw in Peter and his partners those who could “catch people,” so he sees in everyday Christians the same potential witnesses to His gospel.

So, on this last Sunday before Lent begins let us resolve to us this Lenten Season as a time to get out of our comfort zones.

And truly make this a Year of Faith in our corner of the world.