

The Best Way to be a "FISHER OF MEN"?

Use Bait!

BE LIGHT! (Matthew 5:16)

Smile! Be friendly. Be warm. Make eye-contact. Put down your phone and be present. All of that will make a difference with the person who hands you your food at McDonalds - so imagine the impact on a co-worker or family member!



BE GENEROUS (Acts 20:35)

Be generous with that parking spot (especially if you have a St. John's sticker or a fish logo on your car!) Give your time if you possibly can - in a moment to return someone's shopping cart for them, or for an evening when you babysit and let a couple have a date night. Have a yard full of daffodils? Even a small bouquet of them would be a gift of God's beauty to a neighbor.



BE AGREEABLE - DON'T COMPLAIN OR ARGUE!

(Philippians 2:14) Things go wrong. People scrape your car door. Workers get orders wrong. Drivers cut you off

accidentally (or on purpose). Kids drive their bikes over your lawn. The music might not be to your liking. Isn't it lovely when you see people just go with the flow and be gracious in these instances? What would Jesus do?

BE LIKE JESUS - BE SPIRITUALLY FRUITFUL! (Galatians 5:22, 23)

"...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, and self-control." The fruit of the Spirit is the result of being like Jesus. When we are Christlike, unbelievers will be attracted to us in the same way they were drawn to Jesus.



We have to attract the fish, before we can reel them in!

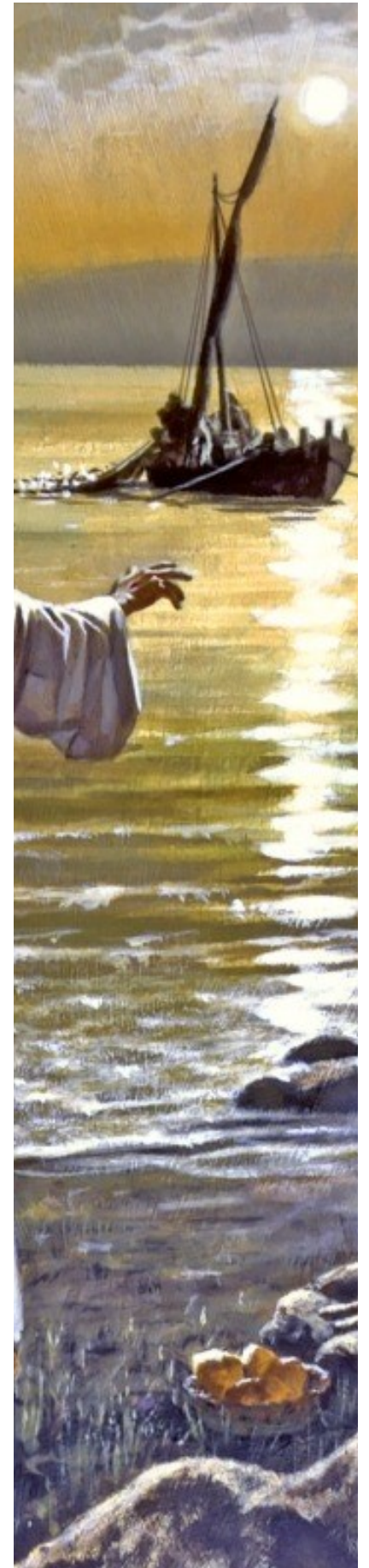
GROWING CATHOLICS



3rd Sunday of Easter May 1, 2022 John 21: 1-14

At that time, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.



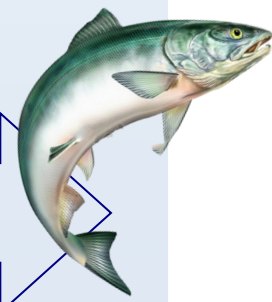
EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Our very own patron, St. John, explicitly claims to be "the disciple whom Jesus loved". This is not his way of saying Jesus loved him *more* than other people (he often refers to Jesus loving others), but perhaps this is his way of saying that the most important part of his identity is that he is loved by Christ.

153 Fish?

In Hebrew, there are no numeric symbols (1,2,3) instead each letter has a numerical value. Over and over again in the Gospel of John, Jesus reveals himself as God. So when John says that they caught 153 fish in their net. This very specific number is there to once again confirm Jesus as God. If you add up the letters of the phrase "I AM GOD," you get 153.

OR - an alternative



SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION

Why do Peter and the others go fishing?
Why don't they recognize Jesus?
How willing do you think they are to cast their nets again?
How does the disciple whom Jesus loved recognize Jesus?
Why does Peter jump into the water?
What might the other disciples be thinking and feeling?
When the disciples got to shore, Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."!
Do you think you could be as inviting as Jesus is? Who could you invite to come to Mass with you? Or, simply join your family for a meal?

The number 153 occurs only once in the Old Testament - as part of the number 153000, which was the number of constructors of the first temple when Solomon was king. But how do we explain the 1000 in 153000? 1000 is well known in the Old Testament to represent a symbolic large value that cannot be counted. So, not only does the 153 big fishes refer to the 153000 constructors of the first temple, it also means "a very large unknown number". This also fits with the observation of one of the apostles when looking inside the net: there was a multitude of fishes. But why the first temple of Solomon? The temple is no longer a concrete building, but the community of believers that Peter would gather.

May is Mary's Month

It was during the Middle Ages (11th century) that the idea of giving the month of May to Mary began with an old tradition, the "30-Day Devotion to Mary", which was originally held August 15 to September 14. During the month, special devotions to Mary were organized, and this custom, beginning first in Italy soon spread elsewhere. It is important to honor Mary - she is certainly Jesus' first disciple, but she is also His Mother, and thus the "Mother of God". That makes her profoundly unique, and certainly worthy of veneration.

What can you do to make Mary's Month special?

If you don't have a **Mary statue** in your yard, it's a great time to get one - and if you already have one - surround her with flowers!



May Crowning is a traditional at the beginning of May. Make a little crown of fresh or artificial flowers and put them on your statue. You can do this simply! Crown her; pray the Hail Mary together and then enjoy a treat - isn't this a perfect idea?

Learn a new **Marian prayer** (and you'll be ahead of the game for the Prayer Bee next year). Find a simple collection here: [Marian-Pilgrimage-resources.pdf](#)

Watch a movie! Check out FORMED.org where you can find full-length or short films about Mary for adults or children. I especially recommend *33 Days to Morning Glory* for adults. There are also films about Marian apparitions.

Learn a Craft! It is not that hard to learn to make an easy Rosary. Look online for directions for making a Rosary with string and pony beads, or one entirely of cord!



Mary, Our Mother

When he was on the cross, Jesus asked this same beloved apostle to His "beloved disciple" to take care of Mary, his mother. John then took Mary into his own home.