



Put Out Into the Deep

In St. Luke's Gospel we read: *"When He had finished speaking He said to Simon, put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."* (Luke 5:4)

We know the rest of the story. The section ends with: *"But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; and from now on it is men you will catch."* (Luke 5:11)

This passage celebrates the call of the first disciples of Jesus, and then, having experienced His miraculous power He invites them to join Him and become "fishers of men." In the same way we are all called to be disciples. I believe that is the core of what we had the opportunity to experience during our 40 Days of Lent.

We put out into deep water, trusting you were ready to join us by forming small groups in homes of believers. Having completed a lot of the ChristLife experience, we sensed that you were ready to "put out into the deep." We had 450 people sign up to participate in Small Groups. That exceeded our expectations.

We followed the text and videos of Pastor Rick Warren's great study, "What on Earth Am I Here For?" I understand that it was a deep and challenging study for each of you as were his daily chapters. I am sure you came across some things you weren't in harmony, or agreement with. That is one of the fruits of putting out into deep water — testing what I really believe — not just what my group or group or family or church believe — but *what do I believe?*

During our Lenten Journey, the homilies were all focused on the idea of having balance in our lives. We looked at maintaining a balance between:

Finding Balance in My Life

What I desire to do for God

Examination of Conscience

Work (a Human Doing)

Darkness (Condemnation)

Fear

Passion (Pain/Suffering)

What God desires to do for me

Examination of Consciousness

Prayer (a Human Being)

Light (Love)

Courage

Passion (Deep Feeling/Trust)

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For each of us, keeping both realities present and balanced in our lives is pretty important. Naturally, some people balked at the reality of keeping balance. They jump on the “holy bandwagon” and proclaim we should be totally on this side, the righteous side. Yeah, that would be nice — but that is just a failure to be REAL.

We live in the midst of both of these realities. It is what the two great Spanish mystics understood so well, “The Dark Night of the Soul!” We spend 40 days preparing to celebrate the Resurrection (Lent). Now, we will spend 40 days celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord — up until the Ascension, when Jesus returned to the Father from whence He had come. Then, we add an additional 10 days of celebration awaiting in hope the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

In keeping with our theme of “Balance” let us be reflective about the balance of:

The Ascension

the Descent of the Holy Spirit

Why do you think there were 10 days separating these two special events?

Let us celebrate the fruitfulness of our Small Groups, many of which plan to continue journeying together. These small groups have brought us to a new awareness of how we need to be sharing our Faith and “putting out into deep waters.”

Because of the fruits we have gleaned from this great experience, some groups will be reforming, others will be starting with new members, or in some instance totally new groups will be formed in homes. The blessings have been innumerable that have come from these small groups meeting in homes.

Maybe it is not such a surprise after all! Is that now the way it was in the beginning?!?! Here is what the Good News proclaims:

“They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their homes for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

Maybe you would like to join a small group in our Parish Community. Please give us a call, and we will be happy to facilitate an opportunity for you!

May our awareness of each other, and His continued Blessings to all of us be ever present throughout these days ahead!

—Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions ~ April 2-8, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Communion Service
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Margaret Tanner (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Roy McMillan (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Florence Cerami (RIP)
Adoration this week: Monday-Thursday, 8am-12noon
Friday, 8am-10am

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Landon Lemonis
Frances Burford, mother of Gail Cado
Tommy Autrey

Repose of the Soul:

James Roundtree, Father of Amy Miles
Mary Jo Nelson, friend of Philip Jabour
Ellie Jae Everly Watson, great-niece of Mary Jacq Easley

More on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church office @ 601-992-9547

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 31 — The Great Easter Vigil @ 7:30pm

Apr 1 — Easter Sunday Masses celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord @ 8:00 & 10:30am;
no Children's Liturgy, no Nursery, no Religious Ed Classes this day.

April 4 — Big Deal Youth Group resumes; 6:00pm-8:30pm; grades 7-12

Apr 5 — Following Christ begins @ 7:00pm

Apr 6 — Healing Mass @ 10:00am; followed by Fellowship Brunch; no 7:30am service this day.

Apr 7 — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary @ 4:45pm in the Chapel. All are welcome.

Apr 8 — Religious Ed Classes resume; 9:15-10:15am; ages 3 years-6th grade; adults



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