

In the Name + of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“Duc in altum,” we hear this phrase in the Gospel, and it means “put out into the deep.”

This phrase was often heard in writings of the late Pope John Paul II of happy memory; and is heard in today’s Gospel. In particular, the late Holy Father spoke of “putting out into the deep” in his writings around the turn of the third millennium.

For many people, that time was occupied with other things: preparing for the end times, or the Y2K bug, or some other such crisis. Yet here was the Holy Father calling us to “put out into the deep,” in the midst of all of these perceived crises.

In the Gospel, this is what Our Lord tells Saint Peter to do, “put out into the deep.” And Saint Peter objects, “but we’ve been at it hard all night” ... but adds, “but if this is what you are asking, we’ll do it.”

And what follows is a miraculous catch of fish that fills two boats.

The Lord calls us, too, to “put out into the deep.” And we, too, object: perhaps you have to wake up early the next day and go to work; or else you have to run a household and care for you children; or maybe you just have to take out the garbage. Yet when the Lord calls each one of us to “put out into the deep,” it is important that we hear His call, and heed it.

We can hear this call only in the silence of prayer ... in the silence of our hearts. And it is in this silent prayer, when we stop talking and listen for the voice of Our Lord, that we hear Him calling us to “put out into the deep.” How that will occur for each of us is according to God’s plan.

When confronted with the miracle, Saint Peter asks Our Lord to depart, for he is a sinful man. And this is true of any of us. Yet our sinfulness is not an insurmountable obstacle. Rather, St. John tells us that “even when we were sinners, God still loved us.” And in another place tells us that it is “God who first loved us.”

And so, let us resolve to heed the call of the Lord to “put out into the deep.” Let us resolve to set aside the time for silent prayer so that we may hear His call to each one of us. And in this, see the miracles that God has in store for each one of us. Let us heed the Voice of the Lord that comes to each of us from God our loving Father, through His Son Jesus Christ, and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Praise be Jesus Christ, now and forever.

In the Name + of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.