Going into the Deep

A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

By: Fr. Glenn Galao, MGL

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Our life is a journey like sailing. We may have fears, struggles, failures, uncertainties. Amidst these life challenges, many of us remain inside the safety and comfort of our circle. However, as Christians we have not really lived the life that God wants for us. God continually invites us to go into the deep, but we are afraid to get out of our circle. We want change in our circumstances, but we are afraid to take risks. Let us respond to God's invitation to get out of our circles and go on a journey to go deep.



1. Let us seek help from St. Ignatius of Loyola's **"Spiritual Exercises."** He wanted change and to become famous. Hence, he decided to be a knight and serve the king. While he was fighting, he was hit by blisters from a canon. After the surgery on his leg, he couldn't walk like before. While recuperating, he read books: the life of Jesus and the saints - St. Dominic and St. Francis. He decided that he wanted to emulate their lives and offer his life to Jesus. He formulated spiritual exercises that had to be done for thirty 30 days: "imaginative contemplation."

2. **Imaginative Contemplation.** While reading the Bible, let us imagine ourselves as character/s in the story.
   2.1. St Peter, the Apostle – "A journey of faith." Simon (Peter) was called: "put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch" (Lk. 5:1-4). As a fisherman, he already knew that there was no fish to catch, but he followed Jesus though he did not know what would happen next. Only after he followed did he learn that he would be sent on a mission to be a "fisher of men." Similarly, we will be called first, and Jesus is waiting for our "Yes." Only then will we know our mission.

   2.2. Jesus walks on the water (Mt. 14:22-34). Fr. Glen Galao directs the assembly to contemplate on his instructions: **"**I invite you to close your eyes and imagine yourself in that boat, experiencing the storm, fearful and asking Jesus for help. The Lord is inviting us to understand ourselves and know Him more. Every time God allows us to go through difficulties in life, He wants to see us trusting Him more. Thus, going deeper into the Lord allows us to move out of our circle and freely navigate and trust with Him whose presence brings indescribable joy. Subsequently, it produces a profound sense love for Him as our Companion and Saviour."

   2.3. Peter was given a mission – to be a fisher of men. If his faith was not strong, he would not have been able to be fisher of men, and become the first leader and the first Pope. Thus, his faith was tested; he was asked by Jesus to walk on water, because the Lord was going to entrust him a massive responsibility. Peter understood that his mission was a mission of love. The Lord endorsed to him "love my nation, feed my lamb, and love those whom I love." The mission would not make sense without love since Jesus first loved us.

   2.4. Moreover, when we finish the Eucharistic calendar in three (3) weeks, we start Advent, the real new year. Hence, let us acknowledge our mission of love; otherwise, we will easily get tired (Song of Songs 8:7). In addition, though we pass through trials, the love of God envelops and protects us. As a reward, something wonderful is likely to happen.

   2.5. The enemy will be working hard also to prevent us from accomplishing the mission. Let us trust that God will be with us and will save us. A quote from St. Francis de Sales: "we shall steer safely through every storm … with trust in God."

CONCLUSION.

Every one of us will drown when we go into the deep on our own. Take courage, our mission is about to unfold. Christ is coming and He will extend His hand to save us.

REFLECTION:

1. How was your experience during the contemplation exercise?
2. What will you do next time to reflect on your mission?

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Transcribed by: Jo Advincula
Edited by: Ma. Vera Tuplano
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