

January 21-22, 2017
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

First Corinthians 1:10-13:17

Matthew 4:13-23

Continuing to move promptly away from the infancy images of Christmas, this weekend we encounter the 'entrepreneur Jesus' who is intent on developing his CORE group of disciples by which his story, messages and remembered events will be conveyed to more people than Jesus himself will encounter during his public career. Oddly, the individuals tapped by Jesus were not academically trained nor were they considered among the elite of their society. A majority of them were FISHERMEN, men used to patience, sprinkled with occasional success and familiar with disappointment. They knew the importance of being able to COUNT ON each other and were willing to trust their lives to each other when out upon the sea in their boats. It was this very lacking in professional development/business acumen that allowed their recounted stories to ring with truthfulness. By their own admission these were not men proficient in public speaking nor making public testimony...but BECAUSE of their encounter with Jesus, their lives were CHANGED. Our task as priests, seminarian and staff is to share the STORY of OUR encounters with Jesus with YOU...so that YOU can be enticed to draw close to Jesus yourselves and building up your OWN reservoir of stories of what Jesus has done in your life. Your story will not be ours...and ours should not become yours...rather, Jesus is willing to meet each of us, where we are, whether we are highly educated or rich in street smarts...we are the strands of the NETS by which Jesus is fishing for more and more people to learn of him. Men, women, teens and children, we are each invited to draw close to the Jesus of 2017....and with OUR stories, let others know that Jesus is anxious to meet them as well.

Thank you for sharing this January weekend with our Santa Clara community. In the mail you should have received by now (if you are REGISTERED here at Santa Clara) the two mailings I have sent regarding our upcoming Pastoral Services Appeal. Please read through the material and allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to help form your response...it is through your generosity that Santa Clara will continue to develop our story of communal encounters with Jesus....a story into which we have been privileged to participate! The Bulletin has other news as well, please take a copy home with you when you leave. As the winter chills surround you, may the reminder that you are loved warm you. FKB