

Today I am going to ask that we put ourselves into the gospel reading. Imagine that we are standing alongside the Sea of Galilee and we can see the fishermen by their boats. The fishermen are talking, laughing, bartering, and mending their nets.

Then their conversation comes to an abrupt end. Their eyes look over to a man standing along the beach just down from us. He is a lone figure and he is calling to the men by the boats. His voice catches their attention. I wonder what the voice of Jesus sounded like that day. Powerful. Deep. Warm. Inviting.

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.”

A voice filled with hope and promise. A voice filled with love. I heard his voice, his invitation back when I was in 8th grade. The voice called me to look for something different than the high school in Watertown. Keep looking for something else. There is more out there. So with my parents help I started the search and found Holy Name Seminary in Madison on High Point Road. 4 years later I heard the voice again. You're on the right path, keep moving. I found St. Francis College Seminary in Milwaukee. After

I graduated with my degree the voice still beckoned me; Go farther
Go Deeper. I enrolled at St. John's seminary in Collegeville
Minnesota. The voice stayed with me, it never left my side and on
May 29th, 1987 I was ordained at the altar of St. Raphael's
Cathedral by Bishop Cletus O'Donnell. The voice that night was
clear and unforgettable:

“My son, you are now to be advanced to the order of the
presbyterate. You must apply your energies to the duty of teaching
in the name of Christ the chief Teacher. Share with all mankind the
Word of God you have received with joy. Meditate on the law of
God, believe what you read, teach what you believe and put into
practice what you teach.”

This voice which cried out to the disciples at the Sea of
Galilee and the voice which guided me throughout my priesthood
still cries out in our world today. The voice of Christ is still
inviting us to come follow him and be his servant. “Follow me and
I will show you the way; for I am the Way and the Truth, and the

Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus is calling all of us to turn off the static and push away the distractions of this life and listen to his voice in the quiet and the solitude. Now is the time to listen to the voice of Christ and to follow in his way.