



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 36, Wednesday, April 6
Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, President, Human Life

Intention:

May we never hesitate in our response to Jesus' invitation but take the extra step of faith: "Master...but at your command, I will..."

Scripture:

Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.

— *Luke 5:4-5*

Reflection:

Often in our service of the Gospel of Life, having "worked hard all night long," we too may feel unsuccessful in our efforts, thinking we have "caught nothing." And from a temporal point of view, Peter's initial objection against Jesus' command seemed realistic. The night hours were the normal time for fishing, which on this occasion had yielded nothing. What was the point of fishing by day?

Peter and his companions are exhausted from the night's work and know there are no fish to be caught during the day. We too, on occasion, hesitate to do what Jesus asks of us, thinking the task is unreasonable, the cross too heavy, and the sacrifice too great.

What makes Peter's companions dismiss from their minds these considerations and gather their nets to lower them once again? It is Peter's trust and faith in Jesus! Peter's shift from an act of complaint to one of obedience inspires his companions to "put out into deep water and lower [their] nets for a catch."

We stand against the culture of death, a mighty foe, bombarded from every direction, and we know that the battle for Life will not be overcome by merely natural works. However, our trust is not in ourselves but in Jesus, the one who asks to "put out into deep water."

Guided purely by faith, we know that whatever the task we undertake will bear fruit in abundance.

Prayer:

Father and Creator of human life, help us never to become discouraged in defending the full breadth of that most precious gift.

Inspire us to remember that without You, we are powerless, and that what we do for the least, especially the helpless unborn, we are doing for Your Son, who lives and works in and through us.

Give us strength to persevere in Your will. Amen.