From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Last Sunday it was the call of the Prophet Jeremiah; today we are given to reflect on the call of Prophet Isaiah. In all probability, Isaiah was an aristocrat and a native of Jerusalem.

When God calls out someone, He always takes the initiative to help resolve any conflict the person called may have: At once the very standard of measuring what we consider failure and strength appears to change. Could success arise out of failure and strength out of weakness?

A loss of one’s ‘old’ life, to find a new life; and loosing of oneself in order to find oneself in God...or “letting go of oneself in order let God” in our lives......

When Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet, his first reaction was to declare his unworthiness. But when cleansed of his sins, he responded at once to God’s call.

After the miraculous catch of fish, Peter realized at once as never before; his own sinfulness and the holiness of Christ. He pleaded with Christ to depart from him. However, Christ showed him that his sins and weaknesses would not prevent him from doing the Lord’s work, rather that he would be given all that is necessary to accomplish the task God has set him part for.

Encountering us with all our defects, limitations, imperfections, poverty, weakness, failures, brokenness and wounds; but also with our potentials, strengths, hopes and ambitions, God is forever calling us, to take Him at his word and to follow Him.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Fixing God’s House

This Campaign Fund money is classified as “Restricted Income” to be used only to pay for the projects mentioned in the “Fixing God’s House” brochure.

If you have not yet made your pledge and wish to do so, you may send in your donations, designating in the memo of your check as ‘Fixing God’s House’. There are several options available for you to give to this campaign:

- you can drop your check at the Parish Office, or mail it
- you may give “On-Line”
- you may also put in the Sunday collection in an envelope, marked as “Fixing God’s House”

Thank you for continuing the legacy of St. John the Evangelist.

Fixing God’s House

Our Parish Hispanic Community (HPC) has embarked upon a “kick off” campaign for “Fixing God’s House”. We are invited to join them in this endeavor. The kick off begins with a raffle; tickets will cost $5.00 with a grand prize of $500.00. You may buy the raffle tickets from the HPC members. For further information please contact, Gloria & Jose Calero or Sonia & Mario Urquilla.

Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed on Monday, February 18th, in observance of President’s Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 19th.

Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ....Why was Peter so down and dour? He had just seen a miraculous catch of fish, one that broke nets. Shouldn’t he be jumping up and down with joy? And yet, Peter is, on his knees before Jesus, asking Jesus to just get up and go somewhere else. Why? At that moment Peter is not seeing primarily a loving God who gives great gifts. At that moment Peter is thinking of his own sin and lack. This is somewhat understandable. An entire night of his hard toil had been nothing; his works had been shown to be useless and in vain. Then there comes Jesus, and after preaching and teaching for a while, Jesus instructs Peter to go after fish at the absolute wrong time of day, when there would be no fish around. Everyone would know that what Jesus was instructing was utter folly – and yet, there’s the ginormous catch of fish. And at that moment Peter’s not seeing the greatness of God, Peter’s own futility and arrogance come crashing in upon him. I kneel here before this Man, who gave this catch after I told Him it was foolish. He is now going to rip into me and let me have it! Nct quite. Instead Jesus says, “Do not be afraid.” Then He tells Peter he’ll be catching men, he’ll be a disciple. But did you see how that worked? Sin and the fear that comes with it utterly warped how Peter viewed Jesus, viewed the blessings in his life, Peter, because of his sin, figured they were curses. But against that, Jesus tells Peter not to fear, for Jesus is there for Peter’s good. As for us today, our own sinful flesh will constantly try to make us afraid of God. Our flesh will try to twist blessing after blessing into a sign of curse. Yet, even today, Christ Jesus speaks to us great words of love. Do not be afraid. Peace be with you. I forgive you. Jesus knows how your sinful flesh messes with you – that is why He catches you with His Word of forgiveness, and proclaims this forgiveness to you again and again. This is His great love.

*Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.*