

“Our Lord has crossed our paths”

Self-giving is the first step along the road of sacrifice, joy, love, union with God. And thus, a whole life is filled with a holy madness which makes us encounter happiness where human logic would only see denial, suffering, pain. (Furrow, 2)

September 23

Like Our Lord, I too am fond of talking about fishing boats and nets, so that we may all draw clear and

decisive resolutions from the Gospel scenes. St Luke tells us of some fishermen washing and mending their nets by the shores of Lake Genesareth. Jesus comes up to the boats tied up alongside and goes into one of them, which is Simon's. How naturally the Master comes aboard our own boat! 'Just to complicate our lives,' you hear some people complain. You and I know better, we know that Our Lord has crossed our paths to *complicate* our existence with gentleness and love.

When he has finished preaching from Peter's boat, he says to the fishermen, *duc in altum et laxate retia vestra in capturam!* [1], 'launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch!' Trusting in Christ's word they obey, and haul in a wonderful catch. Then turning to Peter who, like James and John, cannot hide his astonishment, the Lord explains, 'Fear not; henceforth

you shall be fishers of men. And having brought their boats to land, leaving all things, they followed him' [2]. (Friends of God, 21)

[1] Luke 5:4

[2] Luke 5:10-11

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