

## Parish Vision for Catechesis



*The Second Miraculous Draught of Fishes, James Tissot, Brooklyn Museum*

*And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:4-11*



Thinking of our **Parish Vision** enables us to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord – it helps us look up out of the everyday-ness of parish life, the joys and the challenges and helps lift our eyes to the Lord – to remind ourselves of where we are headed. To remind us of what God is calling our specific parish in the specific area of Catechesis to be. This is vital for helping us to see what is needed for our parish plan.

And it starts with us!

**We pray together with scripture:**

- ◆ What struck you about this passage? Perhaps just one word.
- ◆ What did you notice that you hadn't before?
- ◆ Is Christ asking us to 'put out into the deep' with trust? How will we respond?
- ◆ Why do you think Christ told Peter, 'Do not be afraid'? Do you think Christ is telling you the same thing?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.

- ◆ What does the Lord want for this parish?
- ◆ What is his dream for this parish?
- ◆ What do we want this parish to be?
- ◆ What would you like those outside to say about this parish if they visited?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.



**A Parish Vision for Catechesis**

What is our vision for the families whose children participate in Catechesis – do we, as a parish, actually desire something for these people?

1. What would it be like if we had the personal and ongoing conversion of everyone in our parish at the heart of our catechesis / parish activities?
2. What would it be like if the parents were at the heart of our catechesis, for Baptism, FHC and Confirmation?
3. John and Sarah have brought Jacob for Baptism, and have attended the Baptism Course. They do not attend Sunday Mass. What would we desire for them?
4. Jenny attends the First Holy Communion course. Her family did not attend Mass before the course began but have been attending since the course began. What would we desire for them?
5. Philip is 14 and attends the Confirmation Course. What would we desire for Philip as a result of his having attending the course? What role does his family play in this? What would our hope be for Philip in his ongoing relationship with Christ?
6. Margaret and Joshua have come for Marriage Preparation. They both attend Mass every week, come to confession regularly, and both teach RCIA. What would we desire for them as they take this next step in their Christian Vocation?

