

**Singing Our Faith**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 21, 2018**

**You Walk along Our Shoreline**



1. You walk a - long our shore-line, Where land meets un - known sea.
2. You call us, Christ, to gath - er The peo - ple of the earth.
3. We cast our net, O Je - sus; We cry the king-dom's name;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.  
We can - not fish for on - ly Those lives we think have worth.  
We work for love and jus - tice; We learn to hope through pain.



And if you still will fol - low Through storm and wave and shoal,  
We spread your net of gos - pel A - cross the wa - ter's face,  
You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,



Then I will make you fish - ers, But of the hu - man soul."  
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter For all found by your grace.  
To let your judg - ment heal us So that all may be one.

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Sunday's readings focus heavily on discipleship. We hear in the gospel about the calling of Simon, Andrew, James, and John on the shore of Galilee. Their immediate response of literally dropping everything and following Jesus is striking, and sets a good example for all Christian disciples. Despite their impressive response, we know the rest of the story. Simon Peter openly denies Jesus three times; many disciples question and doubt Jesus; after the crucifixion, all except for John go into hiding out of fear. This is why discipleship is a **relationship**. We fall in love head first, we go through ups and downs, but, hopefully, in the end we live happily ever after. Amid the call and response in the gospel, this context of the rest of the story gives us a reality check that our relationship with God will fluctuate.

The hymn above - "You Walk Along Our Shoreline" - is a relatively new text set to the familiar hymn tune "Aurelia," which we know as "The Church's One Foundation." The first stanza mirrors the calling of the disciples in the gospel, although it refers to a metaphorical shoreline where each of us is standing. Stanza two ties in the doctrine of "Universal Salvation" to our discipleship - "We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth." Like other relationships, we can become comfortable within our borders. This happens, too, in our discipleship if we ignore the calling to become involved in our parish's outreach ministries. If we don't share our faith with others, namely those who are different from us, we aren't totally embracing God's Universal Salvation. The second half of stanza two uses two analogies:

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our net as the gospel, our boat as the Church (not St. Clare Church, but the Catholic Church throughout the world). This reveals the beauty that the Catholic Church is a home to all who seek God's truth and grace. Like I mentioned above, the third stanza reminds us that the road isn't always smooth – it's tireless work! The closing words give us comfort that our evangelization and outreach have a profound purpose: to unite God's people.

I'd like to also point out part of another hymn we'll sing this weekend. The final stanza of Sr. Suzanne Toolan's hymn "Two Fishermen" is a timely reminder for 21st century Christians...

*And you, good Christians, one and all, who'd follow Jesus' way,  
Come, leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day.  
And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near,  
For still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.*

While the disciples in the gospel were **bound** to their occupation of fishing, the phrase "**trappings of our day**" refers to things that hold us back from seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus – sinful habits, excessive entertainment and leisure activities, etc. When we let those things go and spend more time in prayer, we will then see and hear how Jesus "speaks to us in varied ways."

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