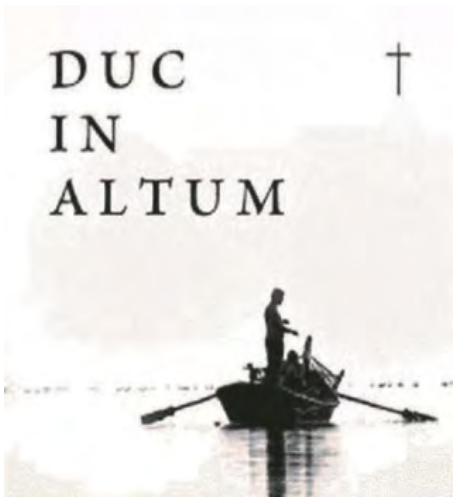


## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



'He saw two boats there alongside the lake...'

The boat is an image of the Church - the bark that navigates the waters.

In Scripture water signifies death:

The waters that covered the earth at the beginning of Creation

The waters of the Flood in the days of Noah

The waters of the Red Sea that threatened to drown the fleeing Israelites

The water flowing from the Temple that Ezekiel could not wade through.

The water of the Samaritan woman.

The water that flowed from the pierced side of Christ on the cross.

The waters of baptism, where we were buried with Christ.

The boat is also an image what our life is called to be - an experience of one who has overcome death.

Jesus does not ask permission; he simply gets into the boat belonging to Simon Peter.

Without asking permission, he has boarded gets our boat, entered our life. He has taken the initiative to communicate with us.

At first, he does not ask anything of Peter. Peter continues what he is doing, his daily affairs, washing his nets, his usual routine. But now Peter is also aware of a voice, that of Jesus who is speaking to the crowd.

Jesus is not speaking to Peter directly, he is not preaching to him, not asking anything of him. Yet Peter can hear his words, and they begin to resonate within him.

We have the same experience.

This is the itinerary that Christ has made with each one of us. At some point in our life we have become aware, as we go about our daily affairs and routines, of a voice that speaks to us.

Something begins to resonate within us.

Jesus is aware that we, just like Simon Peter, are usually just managing to scrape by, that we often times come up empty handed.

It is then that Jesus says to Peter, and says to us, DUC IN ALTUM, that is, put out into the deep.

To put out into the deep means to experience of the Paschal Mystery. Go out into the deep. Enter into the thicket of the cross. Lose your life.

In doing so Peter experiences a miraculous catch. He is pulled out of the banal, mundane experience that has been his life, to be caught up in something that surpasses him, the immense adventure of participating in the Evangelization.

Simon Peter, like us, is called to be an Apostle of the gospel. He carries within him the experience of the Paschal Mystery. He is no longer afraid of the deep, death has been overcome.

Fr. Sean