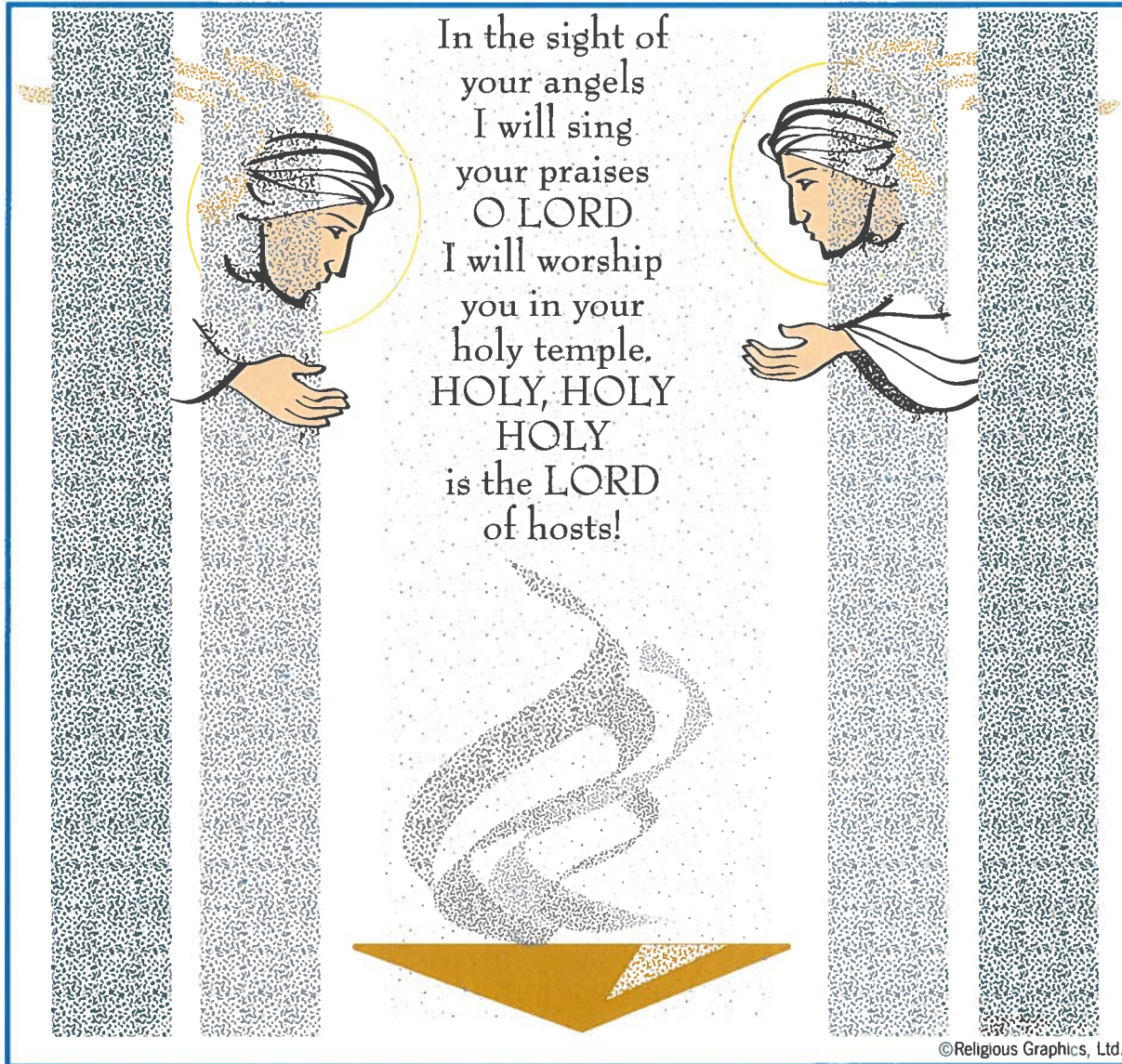


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2025



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "To be "fishers of men" is the church's deepest mission and joy."

—Bishop Silvio José Báez, O.C.D.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15-16, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Feb. 15 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Feb. 16 7:30 am	St. James Sunday Feb. 16 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Feb. 16 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Roy	Fr. Matt Deacon Ron	Fr. John
Ushers	Dave Emling Bob Schultz Gery Wright Roger Jensen	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	Dallas Ferris Bob Buente Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Wayne Bisaillon Larry Wolles Darren Lovell Erik Wheeler
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Dave Ladehoff	Julie Splear
Eucharistic Minister				Susan Riordan
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Wayne Bisaillon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Feb. 10 (SMM)

8:00 am +Aldine O'Brien (John/Loretta Fulton)

Tuesday, Feb. 11 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Feb. 12 (SJ)

8:00 am + Laura Jensen (Tom/Maureen O'Connor)

Friday, Feb. 14 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, Feb. 15 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Laura Jensen (Gerald Kroesch)

+Denise Jepsen Blake (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, Feb. 16

7:30 am +Ryan Gagnon, Renee Gagnon, Curtis Riley, Jr., Arvella DalCanton (The Family)

9:00am (SJ) +Laurie Hansen (K Foods)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Monday, February 17—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm

Wednesday, February 19—SH CCW meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, February 21—American Legion Fish Fry

March 1/2—Annual Appeal Kickoff

Wed., March 5—2nd Collection for Church in Central Eur.

Friday, March 7—Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon - Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email - smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page - www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholic communities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

Tri Parish Church office —Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 426-2550

Bulletin - Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education -

St. MM - Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart - Rhonda Berns - 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse - Jackie Eberle - 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week

When have I felt frightened or foolish by doing something I felt called to do? How has God reassured me and given me confidence?

Collections Weekend of Feb. 1-2, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,066

St. James—\$2,186

Sacred Heart—\$1,031

Thank you for your generosity!

Please check the weekday mass schedule on the inside cover of the bulletin as we are starting to schedule a few days—days will vary.

St. Patrick Dwight-

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am (Coffee Shop follows)

St. Peter, Clifton-

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am

Assumption BVM, Ashkum

Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

St. John Paul II

Monday-Friday 7:30 am

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Date change—the CCW meeting for SMM will now be on Monday, February 17 at 7 pm. We will have our \$20 gift exchange

St. James—

- ◆ We are collecting winter wear accessories (mittens, hats, etc) in the hallway of St. James for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who participate!

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The next Sacred Heart C.C.W. meeting will be Wed., Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. Denise Wenzelman will be hostess.
- ◆ The week of February 9th, the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Aaron Mills.

All Parishes—

- ◆ The next Adult Religious Ed Class will be Wednesday February 12th
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2024.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Marvin Saathoff

husband of Judy Saathoff

May Marvin and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to Judy and her family and friends.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Thomas Buckley

Husband of Beverly Buckley, Father of Scott Buckley and Lisa Patchett

May Thomas and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Gospel Shorts When Jesus Climbs into Your Boat

Have you ever thought how Jesus Christ comes to be Lord of all areas of your life? It isn't all at once, is it? First, we give him our heart and tell him we want to live for him, and yes there is that wonderful peace and joy and we know we are loved. But then we go back to work on Monday and the real world hits and we wonder "How can my faith make any difference in this place?" We know his teachings and we know we are going to Heaven, but how does he transform our marriage or our family or our workplace into the arena for his love works?

Well, often, he does exactly what he did with Peter in this morning's Gospel: He asks us if he can use our "boat", our boat being whatever we use everyday to get us by, to gain security for ourselves. He doesn't start preaching to us, he just enters kind of simple-like and then starts asking us to try his path in the particular area he has entered. He may ask some very simple task of obedience and if we say "Yes," as Peter did, we will be amazed at the

FISH FRY



FRIDAY

Mark your calendar:

Knights of Columbus will be hosting a fish fry on

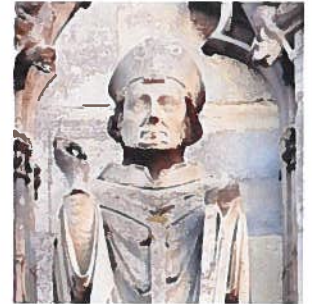
Friday, March 7 at

the Herscher American Legion. Start the first Friday of Lent of right with a delicious fish or shrimp dinner.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Alto of Altomunster (Feb. 9) was a hermit in a forest near Augsburg, Germany. His reputation for holiness attracted would-be spiritual students; to house them he founded a monastery that was later known as Altomünster in his honor. The town of Altomünster grew up around it.

Obscure saint of the week : St. Ansbert of Rouen (Feb. 9) was the chancellor at the court of King Clotaire III. He was married but with his wife's permission, he retired to become a Benedictine monk at Fontenelle in Normandy, France. Later he became the abbot of Fontenelle. Ansbert would become the archbishop of Rouen, France in 683. He was exiled to Hainaut by Pepin of Heristal.



Reflection

God's Loving Presence

God's will is not a label that can be put on unhappy situations. Instead of declaring anything and everything to be the will of God, we must be willing to ask ourselves where in the midst of our pains and sufferings we can discern this loving presence of God.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Once when Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch."

Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself." When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him (from Luke 5).

Help Socially Isolated Seniors

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older interested in visiting with another homebound senior living in Kankakee or Iroquois County. This is strictly a friendly visit; no homecare duties are involved. Volunteers who meet income eligibility guidelines will receive a tax-free hourly stipend and a mileage reimbursement for time spent with clients.

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults with difficulty with daily living tasks. This program helps seniors stay independent longer and provides respite to family caregivers. Senior Companion volunteers report better health and longevity, having served the community. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or mail americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org

Questions Catholics Ask

Please sort out these words for me: catechesis, catechetics, catechism, catechumen. What's the difference?

Catechesis is the process of awakening a person to faith. We typically think of catechesis as instruction: children's religion programs, or RCIA formation for adults preparing for baptism. While catechesis involves teaching, textbooks aren't central to the process. "The study of the sacred page" is the heart of the matter (*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, nos. 21-26). Catechesis is a ministry of the word: not only reading Scripture but entering into dialogue with God's word so that it dwells in us. Our lives literally become an echo of what we hear.

Catechetics is the theory behind catechesis—something you may not consider unless you're a *catechist* (one who provides catechesis to others). But it's something to think about if you suspect your parish programs have an agenda more partisan than pastoral. Catechetics since Vatican II aims not merely to pass on "the deposit of faith"—those traditions and teachings governing church life. Catechetics recognizes the human element in the process of awakening faith. It's not about indoctrinating future disciples through the memorizing of immoveable truths. Catechetics seeks to use age-appropriate and culturally sensitive methods of instruction so that faith formation, and not indoctrination, is the result. Catechists must not only know church teaching, but also grasp the social and moral context of their times and how their communities might be called to respond to them.

Catechism was once the fundamental way religious instruction was accomplished. A catechism is a manual of instruction involving a question-and-answer format. It typically follows the organization of the creed, the Ten Commandments, and the seven sacraments. The point of such instruction was literally to echo the catechism in memorizing the answers to each question and to reiterate them verbatim. The present *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, contrary to popular belief, wasn't intended to be a personal manual of instruction for the classroom. It's meant to guide bishops in the formation of diocesan programming.

Catechumen is the easiest to distinguish in this echo chamber of similar-sounding terms. It refers to an unbaptized person seeking to be joined to the church. *Catechumen* is often contrasted with *candidate*, the term for a baptized Christian who seeks to become Catholic.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:2; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:1-7:29; 22:34-40; Acts 5:27-42; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17



They all derive from the same Greek word, which means "to echo." But as you suspect, they don't all mean the same thing.



**LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY
TO BE MORE ACTIVE?**



Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®

BINGOCIZE® is a 20 week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

**Dates: Monday afternoons,
January 6th through June 9th, 2025**

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

(No class on 1/20, 2/17, or 5/26)

**Location: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 207 E. 5th
St., Herscher IL, 60941**

**TO REGISTER,
CALL NATALIA
(815) 933-7791 EXT 9954**



Attendance at these events indicates consent for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc. to use my photo to promote and increase awareness of programs and services offered by the Agency. Photos may be used in Catholic Charities' printed materials, online, media or by grantors.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

THE CATHOLIC CARTOON by Jasna Masterson



It is not too late to participate in BINGOCIZE!! As the weather begins to get warmer and you feel like getting out for an hour on a Monday afternoon just give Natalia a call and join us for some fun!!

Open HOUSE INVITATION

Free entry
Open to the public

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
6:00PM- 7:00PM

Tour our beautiful facility,
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community, and meet our
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During this Jubilee year, we are invited to make a pilgrimage to Rome to visit holy sites, perform pious works, and seek opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other ways to strengthen and revive our faith. If you plan to travel to Rome during this Jubilee year, please consult the *U.S. Visitors to the Vatican* website at www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/, which provides information to help you plan your pilgrimage for a truly prayerful experience.

While the Pope is excited about visitors to Rome during this special year, he also understands that, realistically, most people are not able to travel to the city of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Therefore, he encourages us all to celebrate in our local churches and communities.

In solidarity with the universal Jubilee year, we will be offering the following Masses here in the Diocese of Joliet:

- **Jubilee Mass for Deacons:** February 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities:** June 1, 2025, 12:30 p.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Priests:** September 16, 2025 (for priests only during Convocation)
- **Jubilee Mass for Grandparents:** October 4, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Consecrated Life:** October 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Blanchette Catholic Center (Invitation Only)
- **Jubilee Mass for Catechists:** October 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Cathedral

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Who is the Patroness of the Unborn?
And why do we need her now more than ever?



Our Lady of Guadalupe is universally recognizable. Her beautiful praying posture, starry jade mantle, and dazzling sun rays can be seen in many unlikely places.

However, many do not know that Our Lady of Guadalupe is widely recognized as the Patroness of the Unborn.

Why? Because from her first appearance until now, Our Lady of Guadalupe's image has communicated symbols of life, motherhood, and divine care.

The Virgin is depicted wearing a black maternity sash, a traditional Aztec symbol of pregnancy, with a four-petaled flower over her womb. In Aztec culture, this flower represents the cosmos and is associated with the highest divinity—and so it shows her to be the Mother of the true Creator of the cosmos.

She stands atop a crescent moon, which signifies her victory over darkness. Rays of light emanate around her that underscore her role both as the conqueror of the old Aztec gods and as the Mother of the one, life-giving God.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Unborn and also of the Americas, so let us call on her, particularly during this important week. In the United States, in addition to welcoming a new administration, it is also the week of the annual March for Life.

Let us ask Our Lady of Guadalupe for her intercession on these events. May her maternal love guide this new administration and our country to a deeper recognition of the dignity of life, from conception to natural death. Her message, as relevant now as it was nearly 500 years ago, invites us to see the image of God in every person, from conception onward.

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February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 | 1 Cor 15:1-11 | Lk 5:1-11

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"Woe is me, I am doomed!" "I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle." "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Do you notice a theme today? Each of these lines - taken from our readings - reveals the humbling reality that when humans stand in the glorious presence of God, we must confront the Truth, look at ourselves honestly, and recognize our sin. We are reminded of the Garden, when original disfigured human nature and Adam and Eve, realizing their nakedness, hid themselves from God. The story would be tragic if that had been the end. But in today's readings and in our own lives, the crippling effects of our sin are *not* the end. By becoming aware of our sin - agonizing though this may be - we invite the Lord in. It's the crack in the door that he will enter, bringing mercy and freedom found only in him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each of today's readings shows how God's presence leads us to acknowledge our lack; however, that's only "step one." Notice what happens next in each instance. "Your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective." "Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid.'" See how, in each example, hearts are transformed from shame and guilt to courage and confidence. The readings explain how as each person is freed, they are compelled to act boldly. So, what changed? The same thing that can happen in our own lives: as we acknowledge our sin, we open ourselves to the flow of grace. We allow the Lord to heal and free us, making us radiant and setting our hearts on fire with love.

PLAN

Choose one virtue you'd like to cultivate in order to root out a sinful habit. Then make a plan to practice that virtue. It can be as simple as "I will always pray to the Holy Spirit before I talk to that person at work who bothers me." Make sure your plan is: (1) specific ["I will never sin again" doesn't count], and (2) doable ["I will pray every day for six hours to grow in patience" is not possible for most people]. Finally, offer your plan to God and ask him for whatever strength, grace, and healing you need to grow in that virtue.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 4:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Come after me
and I will make you fishers of men.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 5:1-11; L75C

While the crowd was pressing
in on Jesus and listening to
the word of God,
he was standing by the Lake
of Gennesaret.
He saw two boats there along-
side the lake;
the fishermen had disem-
barked and were wash-
ing their nets.
Getting into one of the boats,
the one belonging to
Simon,
he asked him to put out a
short distance from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the
crowds from the boat.
After he had finished speaking, he said
to Simon,
“Put out into deep water and lower
your nets for a catch.”
Simon said in reply,
“Master, we have worked hard all
night and have caught nothing,
but at your command I will lower the
nets.”
When they had done this, they caught a
great number of fish
and their nets were tearing.
They signaled to their partners in the
other boat
to come to help them.
They came and filled both boats
so that the boats were in danger of
sinking.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 269.

Reflecting on the Gospel

It can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone. For Isaiah, it was during a religious service in the temple, wrapped in incense and awe-inspiring ritual. For certain Galilean fishermen, it was when they were going about their normal, everyday lives, casting and catching, cleaning and communing. With Paul, it was when he was in an angry turmoil, dead set against the new movement of



Jesus-followers, determined to keep them from ruining the tradition. The call to mission accompanied by God’s transforming grace can strike at any moment.

What always happens when one experiences a call from God is that the immensity of the divine holiness is overpowering. In the face of God’s unparalleled goodness, graciousness, and mercy, our own inadequacies and sinfulness loom all the larger. “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips,” exclaims Isaiah. “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man,” implores Peter. “I am . . . not fit to be called an apostle,” insists Paul. God, however, is never deterred by such protestations. The mission is never dependent upon the worthiness of the minister but upon God’s grace. If people kept their focus on

their own inabilities and shortcomings, the work of God would never be accomplished. When Peter lets go of his certainty that nothing can be caught and relinquishes his fear at what Jesus is asking of him, then he can let himself be seized by grace to bring all his skills to be employed in Jesus’s mission.

When Paul accepts that it is by the grace of God that he is what he is and surrenders all that he is to God’s power, then he can say that God’s “grace to me has not been ineffective.” The effectiveness of this amazing grace is evident not only in the personal transformation each one experiences but also in the sharing of that transformative power with all who are open to hear.

When one is seized by grace, the gifts and skills one already has are often put to a different use under Christ’s direction. One can imagine Peter’s reluctance to follow Jesus’s suggestion to put out into the deep water, when he and his companions had been hard at it all night without any reward. Why should pros like them listen to Jesus? It is when they can take the sage advice of trying things a different way under Jesus’s direction that the grace comes.

While the story of the call of the women disciples, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and their companions (Luke 8:1-3) is not preserved in the New Testament, one can speculate about the ways in which they had to reorient their lives, as they channeled their money and other resources to the Jesus movement. What obstacles would they have had to overcome, such as disapproval by spouses, family, and friends, to dedicate their resources to the Christian mission? These obstacles were no match for the power of grace within them.