

Fifth Week of Ordinary Time
February 9, 2025
Year of the Holy Spirit

“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.’” (Luke 5:8)

Saint Luke records a beautiful exchange between Jesus and Simon Peter involving fishing. We need to pause and reflect upon their exchange. Was this reaction of Simon Peter needed? And, can we have this same reaction in our lives?

In his Commentary on Luke, Homily 12, Saint Cyril of Alexandria taught: *“For this reason also Peter, carried back to the memory of his former sins, trembles and is afraid. An impure man, he does not dare to receive the one who is pure. His fear was praiseworthy, because he had been taught by the law to distinguish between the holy and the profane.”* Coupled with this beautiful realization, as explained by Saint Cyril, I add, this knowledge is gained ONLY AFTER he saw what Jesus had done.

It is far too easy to ask a question and not seek to provide an answer. We could ask: “Would I have the same reaction as he did?” Or, “Have I opened my eyes to see that the boat is full?”

Simon Peter’s reaction was based upon his awareness of who he was within His Holy Presence. Once this realization occurs, it leads him to humble himself in the face of Jesus. It is an encounter and a reaction which highlighted Peter’s willingness to change. We may experience God in much the same way if we first realize we are within His Presence. I am very much aware that I have spoken often concerning Sunday attire and punctuality; I again emphasize this today. We need to be reminded of Whose Presence we are in each time we enter the doors of this parish church. We are in the Presence of God. He currently is present in our Tabernacle and will be made present again upon our altar. Even with this knowledge, I ask myself, is this enough? Is this enough to motivate me to WANT to change my behavior? You and I can read the Bible, read the Catechism and know every answer to every question concerning God, but are we inspired to “put out into the deep?” Are we willing to humble ourselves and go deeper in our relationship with God? Our eternal destination will be greatly influenced on how we respond to these questions. I will leave you with this to ponder.