

Casting Our Net for Jesus

Dina Bellotti was an artist active for many years in her studio just off the Via della Conciliazione, in front of the Vatican. As a family friend of St. Paul VI, she came to Rome when he became pope. Her works are simple, yet evocative. With a few brush strokes, she brings a scene to life and places us there.

Peter is tired, overworked, and frustrated with the lack of results. A stranger on the shore, Jesus of Nazareth, asks him to cast the net again. Although the logic of fishing dictates otherwise, Peter follows his hunch and trusts this voice for one more cast.

We've all been there. We work hard to do the right thing. We try to extend God's kingdom, and sometimes

it seems our results aren't up to par. If we listen to Jesus, we never come up empty. Sometimes we fish where we're not called, led by our own passions and stubbornness. There we reap what we sow. Other times, we simply go along without heart. We can feel caged by fate or a hopeless situation. But then we wake up to the fact

that even there we can love. Even then we can hear his voice, feel his love, and focus on responding to his call. Then miracles can happen!

Jesus loves everyone, not because they are saints, but because he wants them to be. So rather than look at why we shouldn't be blessed by him, turn to him, then receive his gratuitous love. Then without fear, share that experience with others as fishers of men.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I invest in my work, home, and social responsibilities as a response to the call of Jesus?



Piece: *Miraculous Haul of Fishes*, 1972

Artist: Dina Bellotti

Location: Vatican Museums

[Simon said,] "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

Luke 5:5