



## GONE FISHIN’

Most of us have at one time or another “gone fishing”; and all too often without any success. We’ve baited the hook, cranked the reel, leaned back and cast the “hook, line, and sinker” into the open sea only to come up empty. Well maybe not completely empty. Sometimes it may have happened that we hooked what we thought was going to be “the big one” – thank you *John Elroy Sanford* (who?) – or maybe even “the catch of the day” – thank you *Two Cousins* (who?), – only to discover after “reeling in the (line)” like *Chicago* (who?), that while our big catch might satisfy *J. Russell Finch* (who?), *Ernest Hemingway* (who?) would not be pleased. Anyway, ... the inspiration to never give up sent me fishing again this past January, and *believe it or not* – thank you *Leroy Robert Ripley* (who?) – I caught my first fish!



Catching “vocations” (people chosen by God to follow Him) can often be just as hard as (if not harder than) catching fish and yet, in the midst of Television’s polluted waters there’s the still small voice of God calling the *Young and the Restless* (what?) through Telecare and EWTN to “follow Me”; amongst the wrinkled pages of the Press there’s the still small voice of God inviting readers through *The Long Island Catholic* and *The National Catholic Register* to “come and see”; and in the midst of a fast and furious week of “going to” and “coming from” work and school on Sunrise Highway, there’s the still small voice of Our Holy Redeemer on South Ocean Avenue saying “come to Me”.



Our Holy Redeemer has been using that still small voice to fish the shores of Freeport for over one hundred years. It has landed Priests like Father Robert J. Sweeney and Nuns like Sister Dorothy Lynch C.I.J., countless numbers of Married people and people in Single Life, and a good number of Permanent Deacons as well such as Greg La Freniere, Bruce Burnham, Francisco Cales, and Cristobal Sanchez: all of whom are feeding His sheep even as we speak! And while the call to Priesthood might be the one considered by Adrian as he prepares to graduate with honours from Chaminade High School, as the call to Religious Life was considered (and now followed) by Meaghan Baldwin after she graduated from College, I would like you, Tom, Dick, and Harry, Jose, Nelson, ... to consider the call to become a Permanent Deacon.

If you are a man whose faith brings you to Mass every Sunday and whose faith in Christ is the basis for what you do outside of Mass throughout the week, then “take the bait” and attend one of the three information sessions being offered this week at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington (see the opposite Page). Your attendance at one of the sessions will not be received as a decision on your part to enter into the Diaconate, nor will it be an expression of the Church’s selection of you for such a Ministry. Rather, your attendance will indicate to others that here in Freeport, New York there are plenty of fish in the sea, but before God can catch them, more of us have to “go fishing.”



## ✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠ (REVISITED)

### Live from ... Freeport, it's the Pastor! "Turned on and Tuned in to What Makes a Nation Great"

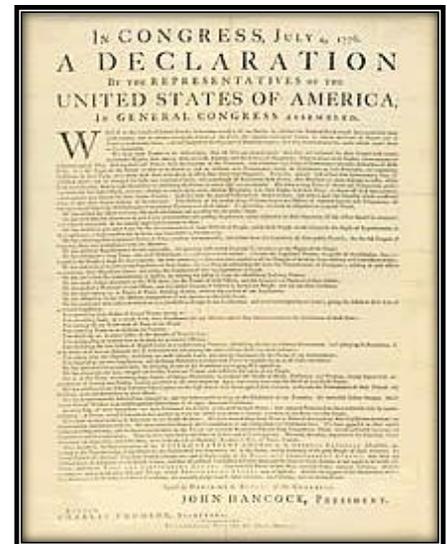


On Saturday 7 November 2015, millions of people *turned on* their televisions and *tuned in* to the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) for its weekly presentation of *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*. There is nothing necessarily unusual about that occurrence. In fact, it has taken place every Saturday night from October to May for the past forty-one years. What made that week's airing of *SNL* so "attractive" was its guest host: Mr. Donald Trump, whose presence in Studio 8H drew more attention than did the issues of his political campaign; issues which really aren't a laughing matter.

Yours truly didn't tune in to *SNL* on 7 November 2015. "Been there. Done that." as the saying goes. However, since "the Donald" is in the spotlight, it is fitting that a Pastor make mention of the event; especially when he considers that members of the flock entrusted to his care probably did *turn on* the television and *tune in* to the program.

Prior to his entry into the race for the Republican Committee nomination for President of the United States of America, Donald Trump was most associated (in certain circles) with gambling casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, a television program called *The Apprentice* on *NBC*, or a golf course in Ferry Point, New York. But now, because of his use (or abuse) of "Freedom of Speech", his name has become associated with Mexico and China, O'Donnell and Kelley, Weiner and Ramos, and "Live from New York ..."

For the purposes of this (revisited) *Message from the Pastor*, the name "Donald Trump" surfaces because, whether you agree or not with what Mr. Trump has to say (and perhaps just disagree with the way he says it), whether you are a member of the Republican Party or not, anyone and everyone who considers themselves an "American" cannot help but agree with his slogan: *Make America Great Again!* And he says "again" because the America that we are living in today (***the America where the Bible is on the forbidden book list in Public Schools and teachers are forbidden to teach from It. The America where Christmas can be celebrated only if you take Christ out of Christmas. The America where more attention is given to saving the planet than to saving the unborn child. The America where God is taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance. The America where people defend Planned Parenthood and its use of US tax dollars to intentionally kill 300,000 innocent lives a year.***) is an America that is "foreign" to the one nation, under God, that our Founding Fathers broke from Great Britain to establish with liberty and justice for all!



It is by "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world" as did America's founding fathers to make America, that *we the people* can make America great again! In other words: *turn on* the prayer and *tune in* to God, and vote on Tuesday, 8 November 2016!