

First of all, let me make a comment about language. . . Those who follow along in the Missalettes, or those who know this Gospel story – know that Jesus tells Simon and Andrew “come after me and I will make you fishers of men,” and I proclaimed “I will make you fishers of men and women.”

The Lectionary we use, is based on the New American Bible translation of 1970, approved by Pope Paul VI. . .

1970 – when the Vietnam war was raging, and the Kent State shootings of protesters occurred, floppy discs were all the rage for those who were lucky enough to have a computer, the 1st Earth Day was held as well as the first Monday night football game, ever – and the use of inclusive language was not on anyone’s radar screen. . .

Now we are a bit more sensitive about not using sexist language – and that’s why I consistently try to use inclusive language – because certainly Jesus meant for the disciples to go out and catch both men AND women in the net of the kingdom of God. . .

Many of us were hoping that when the New Missal used for the prayers of the Mass came out in 2008, that problem would have been addressed – but alas, we were more worried about the authentic translation of the original Latin, than in making sure everyone felt included around the table of the Lord.

Perhaps Pope Francis’ green light for nationally translated texts will get our American Bishops in action on this, but probably not. . .

Second – it occurred to me this week that perhaps Jesus was on to something when he said, “Unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Because little children like playing games ---

Like Marco Polo --- which we saw last week requires good listening skills – and what else requires good listening skills??? -- being a disciple of Jesus!

And another game that was at least popular when I was a kid – was Simon Says --- and to be good disciples, we need to not only be good listeners --- but get good at doing – what Jesus says. . .

Listening, and following – is the one-two punch of discipleship --- learning to tune out all the other voices that bombard us every day so as to listen to the one voice that really matters --- Jesus’ ---

And then to have the courage and the grace to follow – wherever Jesus wants us to go – much like we do in the game Simon Says. . .

Third, I want to explore just one aspect of being a good fisherman – or perhaps I should say good fisher-person – and that is --