

St Brocard (-1231) was one of the first group of hermits at Mount Carmel, and was the Prior of the community. Around 1207 Brocard approached Albert Avogadro, Patriarch of Jerusalem, to write a rule of common life for the monks on Carmel. In 1195 his Rule became the foundation for the Carmelite Order. Tradition says that Brocard was well-versed in Scripture.



First Reading: (Col 1:9-14) From the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ps 97:2-6

R./ The Lord has made known his salvation.

Gospel: (Lk 5:1-11) While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Genesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into

one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

REFLECTION

All the circumstances were unfavourable, but Peter said, "If you say so, we will try again." He knew the great catch was a miracle of the Lord. He confessed Jesus to be the Lord. Peter realized that Jesus is the Lord who must be obeyed and followed. The words "don't be afraid" indicate that Peter was actually scared. Jesus was telling him to trust and stop fearing. He, the Lord, was in charge and looking after everything.

If we want a miracle, we must take Jesus at his word when he bids us attempt the impossible.