Homily by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2017

The first three chapters of Matthew’s Gospel are something akin to the overture of a musical or the preface to a book. They lay out broad themes for the story to follow. These chapters are followed a series of five discourses or great teachings by Jesus. Each teaching is preceded by a “narrative” section that prepares readers for the teaching (discourse) to follow.

(1)

Today’s *narrative* begins with a note about the “arrest” of John the Baptist. A more accurate translation of the word “arrested” might be “handed over.” Later in the Gospel, that same word will be applied to Jesus being “handed over” to both the religious and Roman leaders. The same term is used even later about Jesus’ followers. So, all of this about learning to hand over one’s life to the will of God and for the salvation of the world

(2)

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

When you hear the word “REPENT” what comes to your mind? Turning from sin?

Metanoia – implies much more.

This word implies a radical change in one’s thinking; it means looking at life in a completely new way, “paradigm shift” Creationism – Evolution
Printed word – digital
Ground-based telescope – Hubble
Radio – TV

This new way of seeing life is spelled out through the whole of the Christian Testament.
When you hear the word “HEAVEN” what comes to your mind? What comes after this life here?

Rather, to see the world from God's perspective. God’s vision/dream is within your grasp, NOW.

(3)

“COME AFTER ME.”
Much more than following him around admiring him.

More like:
Be with me.
Take on my mission.
Live like me.

You will be fishing for people.
Our sense of fishing is very individualistic.
For people of New Testament times it was
an act done by a group, in solidarity with others

I think of the millions of people from around the world yesterday
in solidarity with one another and in peace.

So now all this prepares us for next Sunday when we will begin the first

Jesus gathers us here, summons us to learn to do life God's way.