

## Wising Up

**T**here are various kinds of wisdom: the kind you get by watching carefully to discover how something works, or by learning from a mistake; the wisdom in taking advice from someone and not making the mistake he made; the political, social, or religious wisdom learned by those who work in these vocations. There is also wisdom that is just beyond our reach, the kind that is found only in God.

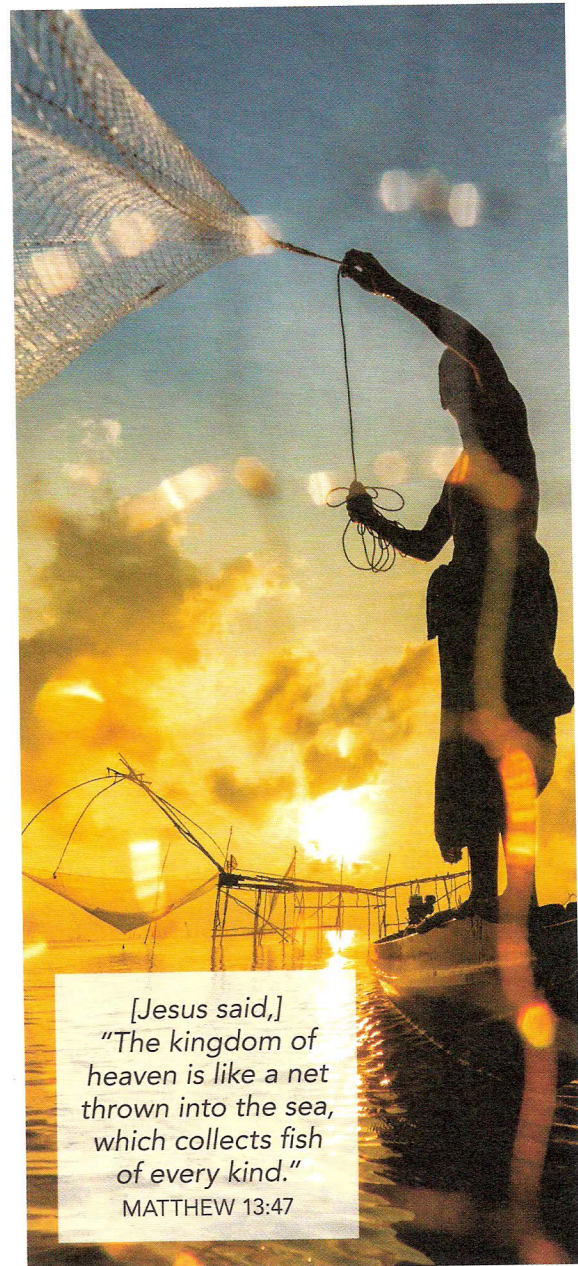
This Sunday's readings discuss various kinds of wisdom. King Solomon asks for "a listening heart" (1 Kings 3:9), the knowledge needed to rule his people wisely. He is told he can ask for anything: long life, riches, security from his enemies, all blessings that would certainly benefit him. Instead he asks for something to benefit his people. It seems he is wise enough to know he needs such wisdom. The psalm response praises the law, the religious tradition that provides instruction for living a life of holiness and thus reaping the rewards of such a life.

The parable in the Gospel describes various life situations in which decisions have to be made. In the first two instances, a question is posed: What is the kingdom of heaven worth to you? What are you willing to give up in order to attain it? The third depicts fishing with a net, a very strenuous task. A question here might be: Are you willing to work hard at this? Are you discerning in separating good actions from bad? It takes real wisdom to answer such questions.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ Do you recognize the true value of our religious tradition? How do you show that?
- ✦ Who are the wise people in your life? How did they get their wisdom?



[Jesus said,]  
"The kingdom of  
heaven is like a net  
thrown into the sea,  
which collects fish  
of every kind."  
MATTHEW 13:47

