

PASTOR'S CORNER



He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

We hear Jesus this weekend calling his first Apostles. In a number of recent Catholic movements there has been a great emphasis on discipleship: are we really disciples of Christ? – have we really gone all in, *left our nets and followed him*? That's not a call just for a few or for religious and priests, it is a call to every Christian in every state in life to live their life at the feet of Jesus – staying with him, learning from him, imitating him. So many Catholics content to simply go to Mass on Sunday, or perhaps even less often than that; with so many Catholics living according to the norms of society rather than the teachings of our Lord; the theme of discipleship is extremely important in our contemporary situation.

But that discipleship is only the beginning. Disciples are called then to become apostles. The title 'apostle' means one who is sent: having followed our Lord and conformed our hearts and minds to him, we need to go out. We need to imitate, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the very apostles themselves: to be sent to preach in word and deed and to draw others to the truth and love we have discovered.

As we ourselves become true disciples of our Lord we begin to lend our voice to that of the Apostles – participating in that preaching that others may hear, that they may believe, and that they may call upon the name of the Lord throughout all the earth *united in the same mind and in the same purpose*. May we truly prepare his way in our hearts, leave behind our nets and follow him in true discipleship. From that discipleship, may we be prepared to be sent out – may we follow Sts. Peter and Andrew, James and John, and the other apostles proclaiming the truth and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and truly work for the salvation of souls.

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP