



In complete contrast to Jonah in the first reading, the response made by Andrew and Simon Peter in the gospel to the call ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men’ was instantaneous. Without any hesitation and with no idea of the consequence, this identical response was made by James and John, another pair of brothers. All four were fishermen and following Jesus meant abandoning the life they knew and embarking into an unknown future. We don’t know if they knew a lot about Jesus before his invitation, but their decision was courageous and generous. His call must of stirred up something deep in their hearts, as they were the first of millions of people to respond to his invitation to follow him. They set out on a journey that would change them beyond imagining and give them a new found freedom to leave old ways behind and walk a better path.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Intention of Manuel Nascimento & family
Tuesday	Soul of Kevin DeGrace
Wednesday	Intention of Luke Jang & family
Thursday	Soul of Artemio Agoncillo
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

COME, FOLLOW ME. HOW BEING A DISCIPLE IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK

The privatization of religion refers to keeping your religious beliefs in the confines of your mind, home, or worship space. Public expression of religious belief ought to be minimized or avoided all together.

Why Our Society Doesn’t Get Religion

A side affect of accepting this view is that religious belief is relegated to the level of personal hobbies. For example, I play tennis, I enjoy reading, and I am Catholic on Sundays. Tennis and reading are not lenses through which I view the world, but my Catholic faith is. No belief system is a hobby, whether it is religious or materialist in nature. Belief systems define our realities.

It Takes Courage to Be a Disciple

So what does this have to do with discipleship?

In today’s Gospel Jesus calls four disciples. Their response to Jesus is worth noting. Jesus calls Simon (later named Peter) and Andrew as they are fishing. Simon and Andrew “immediately left their nets and followed him” (Mk 1:19). Next, Jesus calls James and his John who responded by leaving their father and servants behind to follow Jesus (cf. V.20).

Notice how the four disciples immediately leave their comfort zones behind to follow Jesus. Simon and Andrew’s identities shift from being fishermen to disciples of Jesus. Similarly, James and John’s identity shift from their social status to disciples. It is likely James and John came from a wealthy family because they had “hired servants” (see v.20).

Now to be clear, it is highly unlikely that the disciples completely abandoned their jobs since they needed to fund Jesus’ ministry and, in the case of Peter, was responsible for the care of his mother-in-law (cf. Lk 4:38-40). The emphasis is on the disciples’ identity shifting from fishermen and sons of a wealthy father to being followers of Jesus. They are no longer limited to seeing the world through their job or social status, but their view of reality has expanded through the lens of Jesus Christ.

Greg Garda

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

PARISH NEWS



INTERNATIONAL NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2018 6:00 PM IN THE PARISH HALL

Our **International Night** will be held on **Saturday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**. Tickets will be **on sale** after all the masses Jan.27/28 and Feb. 3/4th. \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

The Social Committee requests that you bring in a food dish from your country of origin along with your ticket.

Anyone wishing to provide entertainment during the evening or for more information please contact **Shaila D'Sousa Tel: 905-707-9248; E-mail shailaflavy@hotmail.com**

PARISH BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 28 - After all the Masses Proceeds Social Justice Committee Initiative to provide a Bursary for a First Nations Student at Nipissing University

One of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is education – education of First Nations youth and our own education – our awareness and increased understanding of the legacy and the impacts that resulted from Canada's policy towards First Nations. **We cannot change the past but we can change the future. We can help to balance out the wrongs of history in order in order to move forward to a more promising future.**

St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program presents

THE FACES OF CHRIST

In the book of Revelation

January 20th – 9:30-3:00 pm

Workshop lead by: Msgr. Robert Nusca

St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto

2661 Kingston Road, Scarborough

Cost: \$50.00 (lunch included)

Register online: www.staugustines.on.ca

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE.

On Friday, February 2, the Church celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto we are blessed to have living and serving among us more than 900 religious men and women of 100 different religious congregations. This World Day for Consecrated Life is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank God for the gifts of these religious sisters, brothers and priests and to pray for God's blessing upon them in their efforts to faithfully live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will preside at a **special Mass on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** at **St. Paul's Basilica**, 83 Power St., Toronto in celebration of the vocation and witness of these special men and women religious who are such a vital and important part of the life and ministry of the Church in our Archdiocese. All are welcome to attend.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018 ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Come and join us in an ecumenical prayer service with His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Anglican Archbishop Colin Johnson, Coptic Orthodox Bishop Anba Mina and other city-wide religious leaders on:

Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.
Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East (Queen & Bond St)

Parking is available, Refreshments to follow

For further information, please contact
The Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs at 416
934-3400 ext. 344 or vkwok@archtoronto.org