



2015
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

“The first
disciples”

Prayer of the month
July 2015

1.- Introduction

Jesus calls on each one of us to follow and live in communion with him. Together with our brothers and sisters, within our family, the Church, we can answer Jesus’s summons. It is He who steps into our ordinary lives and makes the first move to associate us with His life and His mission.

2.- Hymn

3.- Psalm: 62, 2-12

You God, are my God: earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary, and behold your power and your glory. Because your love is better than my life, My lips will glorify you!

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

On my bed I remember you ; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; Your right hand upholds me.

4.- Biblical reading:

“Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1, 35 -51

5.- Reflection

Who is the greatest of God's servants? The answer is Jesus Christ. Do you think we can be like Him? The Bible asks us to follow His example and Jesus Himself invites us to become his disciples.

Do you know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? It means several things. First, it means learning what He teaches us. But that is not all. It also mean really believing what He says. And last, it is about doing what he asks us to do.

Many people say they believe in Jesus Christ. But are they all really his disciples? No. Even if they go to church most of them have never bothered to learn the. Let us meet some of the disciples whom Jesus taught while he was on earth. One of the very first was called Philip. Philip goes off to fetch his friend Nathanael (also known as Bartholemew), the one who you can see pictured sitting under a tree. Seeing Nathanael arrive, Jesus says: "Here is a righteous man, a real Israelite." Nathanael is surprised. "How do you know me?" he asks.

"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you," Jesus replies. Nathanael is astonished that Jesus should know who he is so well. So then he says to Him: "You are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel," (John 1:49).

The previous day, several other people had become disciples of Jesus before Philip and Nathanael: there was Andrew and his brother Peter as well as John and perhaps his brother James (John 1:35-51). After a while the four of them returned to their work as fishermen. And then one day, as Jesus is walking along the shore by the Sea of Galilee, he catches sight of Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the water. He calls to them: "Come, follow me."

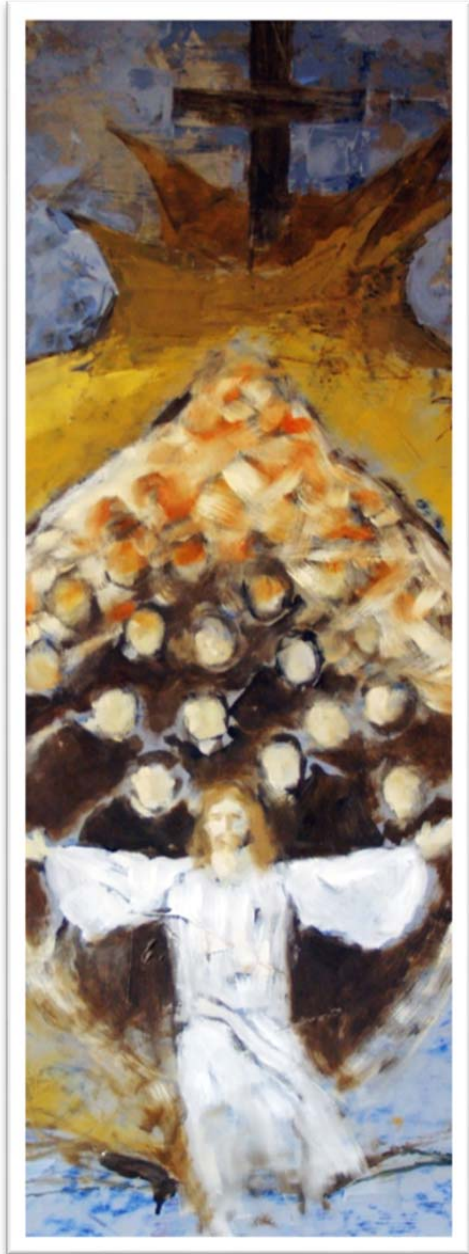
A little further on, Jesus spots James and John. They are in a boat with their father; they are mending their nets. Jesus summons them as well. What would have done if Jesus had called you? Would you have left with him at once? — These men know who Jesus is. They know he has been sent by God. So they immediately abandon their work as fishermen so as to follow him (Matthew 4:18-22).

After they became disciples of Jesus did these men always behave well? — No. Do you remember? They quarrelled over which of them was the greatest. But on the other hand they listened to Jesus and they were prepared to change. If we too are prepared to change, we too can become disciples of Jesus.

6.- Prayers

1. Lord, You who have come to make Your dwelling among us, You who have become a man among men, with God sending You to share our joys and our suffering. Praise be to You.
2. Lord, make us, in the likeness of Mary, Your tender Mother, ready to tell you: "May it be done to me according to your word." Blessed are You.
3. You will thus be present in our lives in order to help us better serve God and to respond faithfully to our call. Praise be to You.

7.- The Lord's prayer.



8.- Final prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

God our Father,
In this Hospitaller Vocations Year
We place all our trust in you
And commit to your goodness
Our difficulties, our joys and our hopes.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
Fill us with the hospitality.
May we be welcoming and compassionate
And sensitive to the sufferings of our neighbours.

Renew in us your call to follow Jesus your Son,
And make us realise that it is worthwhile
Giving up our lives for the Gospel, in the service
Of our poor, sick and needy neighbour.

Lord, accept our praise and our prayer
So that young people, following the example of Mary,
The Mother of hospitality, will not hesitate to say 'yes'
And will joyfully join our Hospitaller Family
To perform the mission to which you have called us.

Grant that we can respond to your call,
Generously and readily.
Make us, in the image of Saint John of God,
Bearers of life,
Health and Hope for all those
We meet along the pathways of life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.