



74th Year

June 14, 2026

Pamphlet #24 (3811)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Matthew 4:18-23)

The calling of the Apostles

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

THE PROMISE OF GOD

The invitation that the Lord addresses to His first Disciples is an act of the will and foreknowledge of God. He meets them in the place of their work, on the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were casting their nets into the sea. James and his brother John, together with their father Zebedee, were mending their nets. Christ calls them to follow Him and promises that He will make them fishers of people. And they left their nets, their boat, their father, and followed Him.

The calling of the Lord and the response of the disciples refer us to the calling of the Prophets of the Old Testament to their prophetic ministry. Just as those, with their devotion to God and the awareness that they spoke in His name, authentically proclaimed His will, so too the disciples of Christ preach and interpret the divine will, “fishing” people into faith and Christian piety. They trust Christ completely, despite their human fluctuations and weaknesses, the difficulties of apostolic life, the hardships, the trials, and the struggles. For this reason, their decision to follow Christ was immediate and without hesitation or calculation. Indeed, He was not unknown to them, as the evangelist John narrates (1:35 and following). Thus, the acceptance of the invitation was not a careless leap into the unknown; it was as though they had been awaiting their calling to the apostolic work.

An invitation to participate in the mystery of the Church

The redemptive calling of Christ is not addressed only to the four disciples of our passage; it is also addressed to the remaining eight, to the Seventy, to all the faithful of all ages, to us today, and to those who are yet to come into life until the end of time. For the will of God is that every person participate in the mystery of the Church and thus offer His ineffable love and His divine life; that His life may become our life, that “what is mortal may be swallowed up by life” (2 Corinthians 5:4), since God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). His relationship with man is one of creation, providence, salvation, and fulfillment, that is, the deification of man.

Acceptance of the invitation

The acceptance of Christ’s invitation, “Come, follow Me,” entails honor and responsibility. It is an honor because the believer acquires the greatest privilege: to follow Christ, to have his or her life inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit, to be a member of the Body of Christ, clothed with the grace of divine

adoption. It is a responsibility because one must preserve the living legacy of the faith, radiate the light of Christ to all so that God may be glorified, become a servant of Jesus Christ, proclaiming through faith, repentance, prayer, love, word, and even silence that the Lord is “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6), and not extinguish the flame of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Thus, the person’s being is filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit; it is filled with encouragement, optimism, and hope. Thus, the believer becomes a fisher in the net of Christ, not only for other people, but also for his own self.

The power of God

In the Book of Acts of the Apostles, one of the 27 books of the New Testament, the Lord, after His Resurrection and before His Ascension, assures His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. In this way they will become His witnesses, they will bear good testimony for Christ and His truth in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Likewise, every truly faithful person, through the power of the Holy Spirit, which “constitutes the entire institution of the Church,” becomes a witness, a prophet, an apostle, a fisher, and a preacher of Jesus Christ, according to the measure of his faith and his spiritual condition. It is enough that his life, his thoughts, and his struggles be characterized by deep Christian humble-mindedness, gentleness, discernment, and self-sacrificial love, so that he too may be able to say in the Lord: “For we are co-workers with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Archimandrite N. K.

**GIVE TO THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE
THEOLOGICAL BOOKS OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY.**

June 14, 2026: 2nd Sunday of Matthew
Elisha the Prophet (900 B.C.);
Methodius of Constantinople the Confessor († 847);
Justin the Venerable (Popović) of Serbia († 1979).

1st Tone – Eothinon: 2 – Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
– Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

NEXT SUNDAY: June 21, 3rd Sunday of Matthew
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10 – Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

New publication of the Apostolic Ministry:

90 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΖΩΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑΣ **90 YEARS OF LIFE AND WITNESS**

1st Edition, in Greek, Size 25x29 cm, 368 pages
by His Eminence Metropolitan of Fanari, Agathangelos

By the grace and love of God, in the salvific year 2026, ninety years have been completed since the founding of the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece, the oldest ecclesiastical synodal organization. The work of the Organization, despite the difficulties faced at times in the history of both the homeland and the Church, has, thanks to the tireless zeal of our blessed predecessors, accomplished many important contributions in all areas of the Church's spiritual mission.

The anniversary marking 90 years of life of the Apostolic Ministry as an ecclesiastical organization is a special milestone.

His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Mr. Bartholomew, emphasizes: "The Apostolic Ministry has emerged as the strong arm of the Church of Greece in its catechetical and pastoral work, in its philanthropic and social mission. Its care for catechesis and the preaching of the divine word, for the support of external missions, for the cultivation of Christian ethos and the uplift of family life, for social welfare and practical solidarity, for youth – their education and professional prospects – for the implementation of European programs, for development initiatives extending into the economic sphere, and for the multifaceted service of culture; all these constitute the scope of the multidimensional and admirable presence and witness of the Apostolic Ministry."

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