

# COLUMNISTS

## Discipleship didn't require a resume

**Third Sunday of the Year (Jan. 23):**  
(R3) Mark 1:14-20. (R1) Jonah 3:1-5,10.  
(R2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31.

Someone compiled a list of "intentionally ambiguous job recommendations." Here are some of the recommendations, together with their meaning.

Recommendation: You simply won't believe this woman's credentials. (Meaning: She faked most of them.)

Recommendation: You'll never catch him asleep on the job. (Meaning: He's too crafty to get caught.)

Recommendation: I recommend this person with no qualifications whatsoever. (Meaning: He has no qualifications.)

Recommendation: He was always asking if there was anything he could do. (Meaning: We always wondered that too.)

Recommendation: You'll be very fortunate to get this person to work for you. (Meaning: We couldn't get him to work for us.)

It's interesting to see how Jesus recruited his disciples.

One day as Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing. Jesus called out to them, "Come after me; I will make you fishers of men." (Jesus loved puns: Fishermen will become fishers of men.) At once they left their nets and followed Jesus. A little farther up the beach, Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat mending their nets. He summoned them too. And immediately they



a word  
for  
sunday

BY FATHER ALBERT SHAMON

left their father and went with Jesus.

Interesting method of recruiting, isn't it? No help-wanted ads. No employment agency. He sees them working and simply says, "Hey, I want you!" And they follow. No papers to fill out, no resumes to check. He calls and they follow.

Notice that Jesus called his 12 Apostles while they were doing their ordinary, daily work. They weren't worshipping in the Temple, nor praying. They were just doing their everyday tasks when Jesus called them.

Someone said that Jesus chose working people rather than the well-trained religious leaders of that day because it is "easier to learn than it is to unlearn." One must have a teachable spirit in order to learn. One must be open to the truth in order to receive the truth. Truth and teachability go hand in hand. That is why some companies prefer younger workers. It is easier to learn than it is to unlearn.

So the first reason Jesus called these

fishermen to be his disciples is that they were teachable. This does not mean that all the truth was imparted to the disciples at one time.

However, they were willing to go the first step. They had doubts, questions and sometimes stubborn spirits; but they were willing to crawl before they walked. Jesus spent at least two years training them; and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he continued teaching the disciples until they faced their own death.

A further point is we need to be decisive just as the disciples were decisive. Jesus saw Simon and Andrew and said to them, "Come after me." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Procrastination has often been called the thief of time and the graveyard of opportunity. Simon and Andrew, challenged with a great opportunity, responded immediately.

Once Ann Landers told about a dilemma faced by a young man: "Dear Ann, I have got to decide between a new car and getting engaged. I really love this wonderful young lady. But every night when I go to sleep, I dream about the car."

When we hear an invitation from Christ, we often find two conflicting inner voices. One is telling us to look before you leap and the other is urging us to trust and go ahead. We can't have it both ways. We must respond to one voice or the other. We can't waver between two opinions. The disciples were teachable; they were

decisive.

Finally, the disciples were persons of character. They weren't perfect. But Jesus knew he could trust them. He saw something in these men that made him know that he could depend on them.

At times the disciples disappointed Jesus; yet he knew that these men were courageous and dependable, not afraid to live as followers of Christ. So he called them — and calls all others who are teachable, decisive and trustworthy.

...  
Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

### Daily Readings

**Monday, January 24**

2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30

**Tuesday, January 25**

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22;

Mark 16:15-18

**Wednesday, January 26**

2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5;

Mark 4:1-20

**Thursday, January 27**

2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29;

Mark 4:21-25

**Friday, January 28**

2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17;

Mark 4:26-34

**Saturday, January 29**

2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17;

Mark 4:35-41



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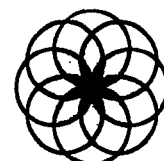
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