

Reflection from the Gospel of St. Mark 1, 14-20

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Call to be fishers of men

When Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John, it occurred in the daily, simple and ordinary fishermen's life, casting and mending nets. We, as a Palautian family, are being reminded that Jesus comes to us and calls us in our normal and customary life as sisters and lay. Maybe not darning nets but while caring for the sick, caressing children, inspiring the youth, attending the old people, etc. No matter what it may be and where we are; the call remains, to be fishers of men.

By our baptismal consecration, we all share in this prophetic mission of Jesus; to proclaim the Gospel and to make known His infinite love and mercy for all of us. As daughters and sons of Francisco Palau, we are reminded of the centrality of mission in our life. And we desire and make concrete our proclamation of the Gospel living in communion, announcing and restoring the beauty of the disfigured members of the Body of Christ, and to listen and respond to the most urgent needs of the Church, here and now.

The mission entrusted to us is tough and vast, from a common fisherman *of sisters and lay* to be fishers of men. With this, we are invited to take the path of ongoing conversion as a form of life; allowing God to transform us, to mold us until we become his master pieces - sisters and lay in the image and likeness of God.

As we all know, the process is not easy. It requires a lot of sacrifices and of dying to oneself. With this, let us turn to Jesus to guide and teach us as he taught his disciples. And may God's mercy and love heal our fragility and brokenness, so we can sail joyfully, with courage and perseverance in bringing back our brothers and sisters closer to God.