**Then they abandoned their nets and followed him**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 24 (Mk 1, 14-20)**

In the Holy Scripture the first called to the prophetic ministry who leaves everything is Elisha: *“Go, take the road back to the desert near Damascus," the LORD said to him. "When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Then you shall anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you. If anyone escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill him. If he escapes the sword if Jehu, Elisha will kill him. Yet I will leave seven thousand men in Israel - all those who have not knelt to Baal or kissed him." Elijah set out, and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother good-bye, and I will follow you." "Go back!" Elijah answered. "Have I done anything to you?" Elisha left him and, taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then he left and followed Elijah as his attendant.”* (1Kg 19,15-21). Elisha is called to follow Elijah, because afterwards he will have to be a prophet in his place. Actually, the prophets have no people who took over their role. Elisha is the first and the only one. He is not called by a man, but by the will of the Lord. It is always the Lord who calls. Jesus also calls. He calls by the will of the Father, in the communion with the Holy Spirit. Every vocation is written only by the Father, through Christ, in the Spirit of the Lord.

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.*

Whoever wants to be a missionary of Christ Jesus to accomplish his salvation in the world, must necessarily leave everything. The heart is one. It is for the mission of Christ Jesus or for the things of the earth. No one will be able to serve two masters: Christ and his own things: “As they walked down the street, someone said to him*: “As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "(Lord,) let me go first and bury my father."*

*But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." (To him) Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”* (Lk 9,57-62). The Apostle Paul is model for dropping out everything: *“Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.” (1Cor 9,19-23).* The Apostle Paul gave his whole life to the Gospel. He also abandoned himself, his thoughts, desires, aspirations, will, heart, mind and body. Everything in him was handed over to Christ the Lord in the Holy Spirit so that the mission, and only the mission, could be fulfilled through him. For a soul to be saved, it is worth giving up even one’s own body by imitating Jesus Crucified.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true missionaries of Lord Jesus.