

January 24, 2025

Daily Reflections



GOD CALLS US AS WE ARE

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.

He appointed Twelve, whom he also named Apostles, that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons:

He appointed the Twelve:

Simon, whom he named Peter;

James, son of Zebedee,

and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder;

Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew,

Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus;

Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean,

and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus chooses twelve people as His closest followers. He calls them to spend time with Him, learn from Him, and then go out to share His message and help others. These Apostles weren't perfect, but Jesus chose them because He saw something special in each of them. This reminds us that God calls all of us, just as we are, to be close to Him and to share His love with the world.

St. Francis de Sales, whose life we celebrate today, shows us what it means to say "yes" to God's call. He was born into a wealthy family and was expected to have a career in law, but God had a different plan. Francis became a priest and later a bishop, helping many people grow in faith. He believed holiness isn't just for priests or nuns; it's for everyone. He taught that we can become holy by loving God and serving others in our daily lives.

Francis teaches us that the path to holiness begins where we are. Whether we are parents, professionals, students, or clergy, God meets us in the reality of our lives. Francis' advice to St. Jane Frances de Chantal to embrace her vocation as a mother before considering religious life reminds us that our current responsibilities are often the very means through which God sanctifies us.

Today, let us take heart in the example of St. Francis de Sales and the Twelve Apostles. Let us draw near to Jesus, trusting He calls us not because we are perfect but because we are loved. May we respond to His invitation with courage and humility, knowing that our small steps toward love and faithfulness contribute to His greater mission in the world.



For Pondering

- How is God calling you to draw closer to Him in your current stage of life, and how can you respond to that call with courage and trust?
 - St. Francis de Sales reminds us that holiness begins where we are. What responsibilities or relationships in your daily life could be opportunities for you to grow in love and faithfulness?
 - The Apostles were not perfect, yet Jesus chose them for His mission. How can you trust that God sees your potential and works through your weaknesses?
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For Prayer

A Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

*Lord, I am yours,
and I must belong to no one but you.
My soul is yours,
and must live only by you.
My will is yours,
and must love only for you.
I must love you as my first cause,
since I am from you.
I must love you as my end and rest,
since I am for you.
I must love you more than my own being,
since my being subsists by you.
I must love you more than myself,
since I am all yours and all in you.
AMEN.*

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