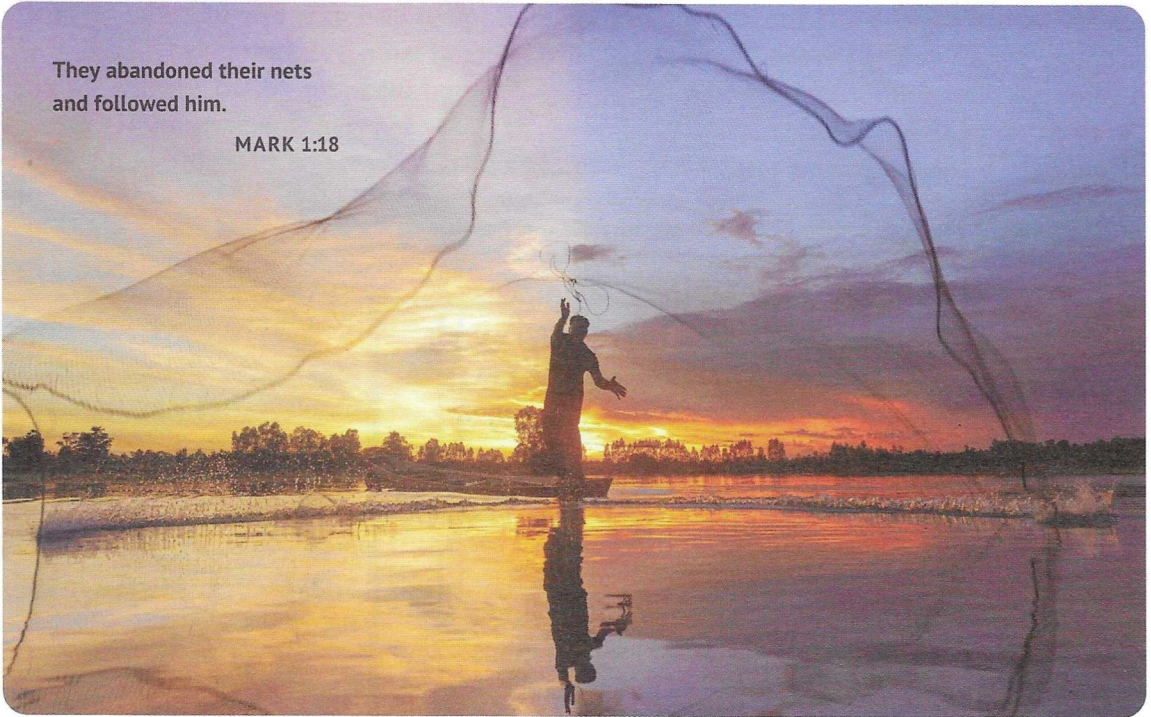




They abandoned their nets
and followed him.

MARK 1:18



A New World Is Coming

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Our lives are filled with calls of one kind or another. Phone calls, text messages, teachers who call on us in class, those who call us for supper, people behind a counter who call out, "Next!" And, sooner or later, death will call each of us.

Jonah was once called to go to Nineveh, and the people of Nineveh were called to repent and change their lives. Simon and Andrew, John and James were called to follow Jesus. And today God calls each of us, but it is never easy to sort out what it is we are called to do.

Saint Paul took pains to tell us that "the world in its present form is passing away" (1 Corinthians 7:31). That being true, then God's call is always into a new way of life, which seems to imply leaving something behind, not unlike the four followers in Sunday's Gospel leaving their fishing nets and their father Zebedee in his boat.

The world that is passing away may be childhood, or productivity as we age. The new world may require confronting addiction and leaving a life of what we thought we couldn't live without. Or, like the people of Nineveh who were called to repent, it might be a call for our nation to confront our failure to engage in dialogue about and find solutions to injustice in its many forms at home and abroad. Who knows what God's new world will be? ●

Reflect

To what is God calling you, your community, our nation?