

Item #86 (On Leaving Their Father)

In Mark 1,16-29 Jesus Christ calls four fishermen to be “fishers of men”. Later (Mark3,13-19) they would be called also as apostles who will be the official witnesses to His resurrection. This they will do while being also officially designated as priests of the new order who witness to the resurrection and the preceding death of Jesus Christ in a liturgical manner (Mark 14,20.22-26). The four are two pairs of brothers, Andrew and Simon Peter, and James and John. James and John were the sons of Zebedee. When they responded affirmatively to the invitation of Jesus to follow Him they “left their father” (Mark 2,20). Commentators naturally focus on this painful fact of the resultant separation of sons from their father. But they thereby fail to comment on the positive aspects of the acquisition of a new father that results from this separation: the Father who is the Father of Jesus, God Himself. **(James Swetnam, S.J., March 3, 2022)**