

the good news weekly

gnw



Taking Chances

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Mark 1:14-20 • January 24, 2021

GOSPEL
THEME

Jesus leads those
who listen to his call.

Simon and the other men in this week's gospel were taking a great chance. They were giving up a life they knew for the unknown. And they were doing it simply because they believed in the words that Jesus preached. Here are some other people who had the courage to take chances to follow their beliefs.



GALILEO

Galileo was an Italian astronomer and physicist. When he was a professor of mathematics at Padua, he constructed a telescope to use in studying the stars. It was Galileo who discovered the secrets of our galaxy. He learned and taught his students that the earth and all the planets revolve around the sun.

The people didn't believe Galileo's theory. He was arrested and put on trial for teaching untruths. Yet what we know today about our solar system began with Galileo's courage to teach what he believed in.

SISTER THEA BOWMAN

Sister Thea spent her life witnessing to the dignity of all people and preaching against racism and bigotry — even and especially against the racism and bigotry she found within her beloved Catholic Church and its members.

Sister Thea suffered with bone cancer for five years, but kept right on singing and evangelizing. She touched the hearts of the people, whether poor and illiterate or powerful and educated. Sister Thea even brought the North American bishops to tears, and to a unified stand against racial injustice, when she addressed them only a few months before her death, in 1989.



JAMES LOGAN

James Logan was a successful businessman from New York City. He owned many small companies and was quite wealthy. But Logan wanted to live a closer life with Jesus. He talked to his wife and children about becoming a deacon. He talked to his pastor. He prayed. Today, he is known simply as Deacon Jim.

Deacon Jim ministers to the homeless and to AIDS patients in New York City. The businesses have been turned over to those who once worked for him, and the profits have been absorbed by the needs of those he serves.

Fill-ins

Can you fill in the blanks in the following sentences, using the word list below? If you have trouble, get out your Bible and turn to Mark 1:14-20.

1. After John was arrested, Jesus came to _____ proclaiming the good news of God.
2. As he passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw _____ and his brother _____.
3. They were _____.
4. Jesus told them to _____.
5. He walked along a little farther and saw _____, and his brother _____.

the son of _____
WORD LIST:
 JOHN ZEBEDEE JAMES
 SIMON ANDREW GALILEE
 FISHERMEN
 FOLLOW HIM



SHARING the GOOD NEWS Activity for Class or Family



MAKING CHOICES

The gospel message for today tells us that if we listen to Jesus he will lead us. The message doesn't tell us *how* we will be led or *where* we may have to go to get there — but it does betray the final destination: THE KINGDOM OF GOD. As a group project, why not make a banner that proclaims THE KINGDOM OF GOD in your lives?

Your banner can be made of posterboard or of fabric. It can be decorated with magic markers, colored construction paper, felt, or anything else you find to be appropriate for your message. THE KINGDOM OF GOD should dominate your banner. After it is in place, each of you add your own ideas about what this message means. Some examples might be a tree (to illustrate creation), fish (to illustrate today's gospel), people helping one another (to illustrate how God continues to work through us), and so forth.

Don't rush your banner. The end result should be something you are proud to display where others can see it and understand that THE KINGDOM OF GOD is truly at hand.

