

Follow Me''

Read: Mark 3:13-19

Jesus said to them, "Follow Me" They immediately left their nets and followed Him. *Mark 1:17-18

When the United States launched its space program in 1958, seven men were chosen to become the first astronauts. Imagine the excitement of Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Deke Slayton. They were selected to go where no one had ever gone before.

Yet, as astronauts they knew they would face unforeseen dangers, challenges, and trials. Each of them realized that the thrill of being chosen was tempered with the fear of the unknown future.

Imagine another set of men who were chosen for an important mission: the 12 apostles Jesus chose one day on a mountainside near the Sea of Galilee. These men left

behind their occupations and families to dedicate themselves to this radical new teacher. They didn't know what kind of political, religious, or financial challenges they would face. Yet they followed Jesus.

Jesus asks the same of His people today. He asks each of us to follow Him, to love Him, to obey Him, and to tell others about Him. Like the apostles, we don't know what our commitment to Jesus might bring.

Lord, help us to follow You faithfully and to trust You completely with our future. *Dave Branon
I am resolved to follow the Savior,
Faithful and true each day; Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth*

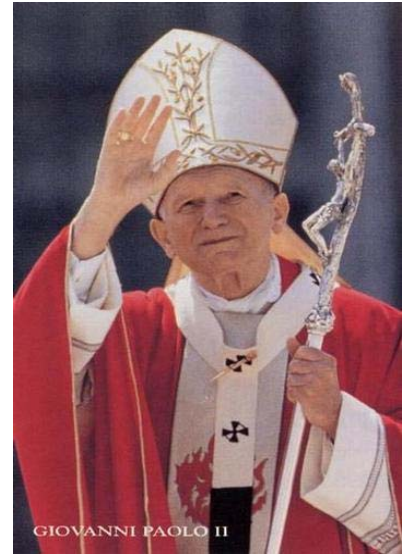
He is the living way.
*Hartsough
Following Jesus is always right*but not always easy.

(cancaonova.net
a catholic
website)

New chapter begins in the life of the nation

Pope Sends Blessings to New Iraq Government

Vatican, Jun. 30 (CWNews.com) - Pope John Paul II (bio - news) has sent his congratulations and best wishes to the new provisional government of Iraq, "as a new chapter begins in the life of the nation."



In a message to Iraq's newly installed head of state, President Ghazi Ajil al Yawar, the Holy Father said that he was praying that "the hopes of the Iraqi people for peace, freedom and prosperity will soon be fulfilled."

"Now, as you take up the office of president, the Catholic Church throughout the world offers you every support and encouragement in the task of building a new Iraq," the Pope wrote.

The Pope's message was conveyed in a telegram that was signed in the Pontiff's name by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. A similar message was sent to Iraq's new Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

In the message, the Pope reminded Iraq's new leaders that he "has always been deeply concerned for the suffering people of Iraq." He hailed the "rich variety of faith traditions" in the country-- noting that it was once the home of the patriarch Abraham-- and said that he hoped the different religious traditions would "make their voices heard and play their rightful part in forging a new society."

Prayer to the Holy Mother of God

We remember our most blessed mother of God and we pray:

Your voice so sweet,
Your tenderness so rare,
When we pray to you
We forget all despair.

With the roses blooming & the lilies blossoming everywhere. With the birds singing so beautifully

and flying swiftly in the air!

Be with us o blessed virgin day by day

In everything we do and everything we say.

Pray for us o saint, in who we trust and abide in,

Keep us in your warmth and care and help us

reduce our sins!

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