

GOSPEL PEARLS

Continuous confirmation

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In these days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the

seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. (Luke 6: 12-19)

The daily grind can test one's call to total consecration to God. That is why we need to pray for those who say yes to God by dedicating their entire lives to serving His Church. We should avoid judging them personally. After all, even the Apostles abandoned Jesus during His Passion. One of them even denied Jesus while another betrayed Him. After Pentecost, however, it is thanks to their proclamation, their sacrifice and those of their successors, including our bishops and priests, that the Gospel of Jesus has been passed on down to us.