

The Junior Observer

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A Bible Story

Jesus Calls His First Followers

Catholic News Service

When Jesus learned that John the Baptist had been arrested, he left Nazareth and moved to Capernaum, a city on the sea. By doing this, he fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that said, "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."

From that moment, Jesus knew he had to continue to preach the message of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John said he had been chosen to prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus was the Lord, and his mes-



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sage and ministry would be much more powerful than that of John.

Jesus knew he would need men to help him and learn from him, men he knew he could trust. He went out to find the right men.

As he walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee one afternoon, he saw two men casting their fishing nets into the water. They were brothers, and their names were Simon and Andrew.

Q&A

What was the first message Jesus wanted to preach?

What did Jesus say when he called Peter and Andrew?

Read more about it in Matthew 4.

Jesus called out to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Even though fishing was the only way they could support their families, the two brothers immediately left their work and followed Jesus.

As Jesus walked further along the shore with his new friends, they saw two other brothers, James and John, who were fish-

ing from a boat with their father. Jesus called them, and they, too, left their work to follow Jesus.

Having selected the first of his Apostles, Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee. He preached everywhere he went, spreading the good news of the kingdom of God, and he healed people who were sick with many different kinds of diseases and ailments. People who had been in pain or were paralyzed or tormented by spirits were cured and made whole.

Word of the wonders performed by Jesus spread as far away as Syria, and crowds from Galilee, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the River Jordan formed around him.

Make Heart to Heart Part of Your Lent Activities

Lent begins on March 5, when we celebrate Ash Wednesday.

Many Catholics go to church on that day to attend Mass and to have a cross of ashes traced on their foreheads.

There are three main things Catholics are asked to do during Lent, the Church season that leads us to Easter and the remembrances of our salvation through Jesus's death on the cross.

Those things are praying,

fasting and almsgiving.

Children are not required to fast until they are in their 14th year, but they, with their families try to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Decorating your hearts for Heart to Heart, and

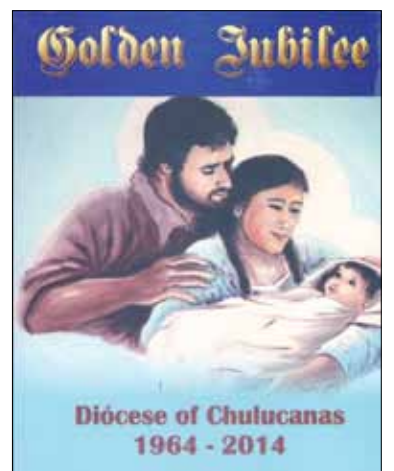
sending them with a donation of \$2, is a way you can take part in Lent almsgiving. Maybe you can save the money from your allowance, or earn it by doing chores for family and neighbors.

Your decorated hearts go

right to a child in the Diocese of Chulucanas in Peru. Your donation helps pay for school supplies for that child.

This is a special year to help the Peru diocese, too. It is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in honor of its 50th anniversary. They sent us a card (below) to show their joy.

*Heart to Heart ... De Corazón a Corazón
Rockford — 2014 — Chulucanas*



(Observer photo)

Here's what you need to do

If you need extra hearts to decorate for this year's project, ask an adult to help you download one at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/junior-observer>. Click on the Heart to Heart Project link.

Send your decorated double-hearts and a \$2 donation for each pair to The Junior Observer, P.O. Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125. (Ask your parents to write checks to DCCW.)

Do not mount your hearts on other paper because it adds to mailing costs.

The deadline to send your hearts and donation is **Good Friday, April 18.**