

Week Three
Answering the Call



Listening to the Word of God

Call of the First Disciples (Mark 2:16-20)

As he made his way along the Sea of Galilee, he observed Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately abandoned their nets and became his followers. Proceeding a little further along, he caught sight of James, Zebedee's son, and his brother John. They too were in their boat putting their nets in order. He summoned them on the spot. They abandoned their father Zebedee, who was in the boat with the hired men, and went off in his company.



Listening about Catherine

Catherine's First Companions (Positio p. 51)

Catherine McAuley was convinced that Almighty God required her to make some lasting efforts for the relief of the suffering and the instruction of the ignorant. She considered establishing a society of pious ladies who would devote themselves to this service while retaining the liberty of returning to their worldly life when they no longer felt inclined to discharge such duties. "She was a sort of Pied Piper of Hamelin. They gathered to her; they foregathered with her; they went to live with her in the big new barracks". After Fanny Tighe, Anna Maria Doyle was next to show interest. Her family of Church Street played an outstanding Role in the religious life of the city., and Anna Maria, who had intended entering a Presentation Convent refrained from doing so because of the distress of her aged parents whose only daughter she was. Anna Maria saw in Catherine McAuley's scheme a plan acceptable to both parents and offered herself as a collaborator.....
.....Before the end of 1827 two daughters of Daniel O'Connell with their friend, Louisa Costello, all residents of Merrion Square, became assistants at the House of Mercy. This was the forerunner to the application of countless others for permanent association with her.