



**Orthodox Mission of the
Entrance of the Theotokos
into the Temple**

**306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich,

Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

Immediately!
July 4, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. (Matthew 4:21-22)

This Sunday is the beginning of that period of our church year which is called “ordinary time” by many of our western brethren. In the appointed Gospel lesson, we hear the story of our Lord’s call to discipleship to the first four apostles, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John. The Lord singles them out and says to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The most amazing part of this story is that they do as He commands; they follow Him – not haphazardly or cautiously, but the First Evangelist says, “immediately.”

“Immediately!” This is one of the favorite words of the Holy Evangelists. “Immediately!” In St. Matthew’s telling of this story James and John follow Jesus so quickly that their father Zebedee is left sitting in the fishing boat by himself! It is remarkable that they responded to that initial

call with such single-minded intent and with such urgency. St. Theophan observed that they followed Him immediately, because they saw in Him something far “better than anything else.”

The question for us to ask is why people today do not respond to that call to discipleship with the same single-minded immediacy of the first called disciples. It is because they, the people around us, do not see Christ shining through us! Remember that on the Day of Pentecost the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples. God would no longer dwell in the Temple of Jerusalem. Now, after Pentecost, God poured Himself out through the Grace of His Spirit to dwell in the hearts of the disciples. We, His disciples, having received that same Grace in Baptism and Chrismation, are Temples of His Presence. This is why St. Paul could say with such conviction, “**Our bodies** are the Temples of the Holy Spirit.” We are now the living Temples of God, “Temples not made with hands.” The Spirit has been given to each of us so that the Light and Life and Love and Mercy of God shines through us for the benefit of everyone in the world around us.

So, you see, if people around us do not respond to the Lord’s call to discipleship with the same immediacy as did the first-called, it is because they do not see Christ in us. When they see us, they see something else, and each of us must ask what it is they see! Is it hypocrisy, or self-absorption rather than love, self-giving, kindness, mercy and concern for others? If they see hypocrisy or self-absorption, why would they come to Christ? They judge Him by what they see in us! For unless they see Him in us, they will not discern that One and Only Who is “better than anything else.”

The Gospel lesson this Sunday, Brothers and Sisters, is a reminder of our great High Calling! Each of us has been made a Temple of the Holy Spirit, and each of us must strive never to quench Him! It is our High Calling to allow Him to shine through us for the benefit of others, not just for the benefit of ourselves alone! Look within, Brothers and Sisters, and ask, “What do others see when they see me?” May it be Christ that they see in each and every one of us rather than that horrible selfishness that has consumed the world around us!

Fr. Elias

Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 West Main Street

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084