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## **“Here I am, for you have called me”**

The day of salvation, of eternity, has come for us. Once again the call of the Divine Shepherd can be heard, those affectionate words: Vocavi te nomine tuo - I have called you by your name. Just like our mother, he calls us by our name, by the name we're fondly called at home, by our nickname.

November 28

There, in the depths of our soul, he calls us and we just have to answer:

Ecce ego quia vocasti me here I am,  
for you have called me, and this time  
I'm determined not to let time flow  
by like water over the pebbly bed of  
a stream, leaving no trace behind.  
(The Forge, 7)

Open your own hearts to Jesus and  
tell him your story. I don't want to  
generalize. But one day perhaps an  
ordinary Christian, just like you,  
opened your eyes to horizons both  
deep and new, yet as old as the  
Gospel. He suggested to you the  
prospect of following Christ  
earnestly, seriously, of becoming an  
apostle of apostles. Perhaps you lost  
your balance then and didn't recover  
it. Your complacency wasn't quite  
replaced by true peace until you  
freely said "yes" to God, because you  
wanted to, which is the most  
supernatural of reasons. And in its  
wake came a strong, constant joy,  
which disappears only when you  
abandon him.

I don't like to speak of someone being singled out to be part of a privileged elect. But it is Christ who speaks, who chooses. It is the language of holy Scripture: "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy," St Paul tells us [1]. I know that such thoughts don't fill you with pride nor lead you to think yourself better than other men. That choice, the root of our vocation, should be the basis of our humility. Do we build monuments to an artist's paintbrush? Granted the brush had a part in creating masterpieces, but we give credit only to the painter. We Christians are nothing more than instruments in the hands of the creator of the world, of the redeemer of all men. (Christ is passing by, 1)

[1] Eph 1:4: *Elegit nos in ipso ante mundi constitutionem ut essemus sancti*

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