

Follow me!

⋈CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES⋈



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck.
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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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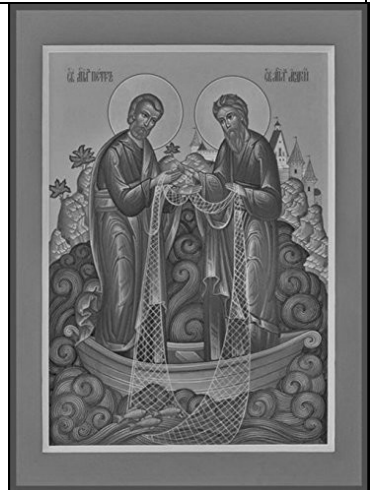
The buddy system

Have you ever used the buddy system? Sure, you have! Maybe a teacher or a camp counselor sent you off with a friend to do some task. Or maybe your parents told you and a sibling to work on something together. When you have a buddy with you, you might feel safer and stronger.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear how Jesus called His first disciples. First, He saw Peter and Andrew fishing in the sea. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Jesus called them, and they followed Him. Later, He saw two other brothers, James and John, and Jesus called them too. We know that these two sets of brothers (who were buddies too!) worked together to help the Lord. They followed Him even after Jesus had left for heaven! They used the buddy system for good.

When we are together with a buddy—a brother or a sister or a friend—we can choose to do the right thing together or the wrong thing together. We can do what our parents told us to do, and we can go where our teacher or camp counselor told us to go. Or...we can't. Let's choose to use the buddy system to help each other do the right thing. Let's remember these two sets of buddies in the Gospel today. They helped each other help God. And they helped God build up the Church! They worked together to do great things!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Abbess
Apostles
Buddy
Follow Me
Fomar
Ministry
Monastery
Saint
Tamara
Together

J	U	H	M	U	I	U	S	T	X	I	L	Y	O	P
K	K	L	M	M	Y	G	A	S	A	I	L	R	B	W
F	H	T	B	I	S	M	O	Z	E	R	Q	E	P	E
V	O	C	S	O	A	J	F	A	K	B	I	T	T	E
D	O	K	V	R	X	P	F	G	P	W	B	S	O	K
U	V	F	A	K	W	P	O	S	Z	N	C	A	G	K
E	B	D	X	R	C	B	M	S	F	F	F	N	E	S
J	V	X	N	T	N	I	A	S	T	O	O	O	T	Q
U	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y	L	L	Z	M	H	W
S	U	J	K	L	U	J	L	L	Y	T	E	U	E	D
V	E	S	K	B	Y	T	O	R	W	T	L	S	R	D
I	R	S	W	D	K	W	Q	J	O	H	Q	N	C	O
C	S	T	D	Q	M	F	S	D	C	H	B	X	O	O
G	N	U	O	E	R	D	V	D	T	E	L	J	Q	P
R	B	I	R	C	P	W	I	Z	U	H	T	G	S	U

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a picture of St. Fomar as a young woman, and an icon of her as an old woman, when she was an abbess.



DO YOU KNOW A SAINT?

SAINT FOMAR (TAMARA) OF MOSCOW

Have you ever met a saint? Maybe. Sometimes we might think of saints as living many, many years ago. But saints are alive among us today. That's because people who love God very, very much are around us today!



A nun holds a new icon of Saint Fomar, because she was just declared a saint

Tomorrow we celebrate a saint who was just declared a saint nine years ago. Saint Fomar was born in 1868 in the country of Georgia with the name Tamara. She came from a rich family, but she gave up a fancy life to become a simple nun. Later on, she helped start a monastery near Moscow, Russia, and Saint Fomar became the abbess, a loving and patient leader of these nuns. Sadly, when the saint was an old lady, the leaders of Russia (who didn't believe in God) decided to close the monastery. They arrested Saint Fomar, and they sent her to Irkutsk, a very cold part of Russia. Saint Fomar became very sick there and she died in 1938. Saint Fomar is an example to us, because she never gave up her faith in God. In fact, her faith grew stronger and stronger!

Last week was the Sunday of All Saints. Always remember that God calls each one of us to be saints. And we always have examples (like St. Fomar!) to help us.

We celebrate Saint Fomar tomorrow, June 23rd (OC: July 6th).