

As we begin the process of calling a faithful and faith-filled bishop co-adjutor who will become the 8<sup>th</sup> bishop of WV, let us focus on the work of spiritual discernment. Soon, you will be asked to complete a survey designed to help us search for the candidate who might shepherd us through our Christian walk for the years ahead. The Search Committee is offering weekly reflections for you to use individually or in small groups to prepare for your critical role in the process.

Listening to God

Luke 6:12-16

*<sup>12</sup> Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: <sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup> and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (NRSV)*

Before Jesus made a major decision, he went to the mountain to spend time with God in prayer. By listening to God, he moved forward calling disciples who seemed to be the least likely persons to carry on the work of evangelizing Jesus' new message.

- How might you prepare yourself to hear the unexpected from God?
- How can you bring the teachable mind of a disciple, open to the work of the Spirit to this work?
- Reflect upon the state of mind you bring to the search process. In particular, what thoughts or opinions might shape your responses?
- Do you hold biases or opinions that might silence the Holy Spirit? Can you approach these as opportunities to go deeper in your reflection, to grow?
- When responding to the survey, do you see yourself as an advocate, a humble servant, or an illuminator for the Diocese? What do you see in yourself that shaped your answer?