

## “Few Are Called... Are You Next?”

During the recent pre-inauguration festivities there was a call for service to the United States of America. The President declared service to our communities and country to be the highest form of honor, respect and patriotism.

We, as Orthodox Christians are also called to service to our Church and her people. In his book, These Are The Sacraments, Fr. Anthony Coniaris explains this calling. He refers to Fr. Stanley Harakas' definition as noted in his pamphlet “The Making of a Greek Orthodox Priest”. Fr. Harakas uses two Greek words, *klisis* meaning *inclination* and *klesis* meaning a *call*. He further explains “Every priest must have the inclination... and somehow in a very deep and personal way, he must also sense the call of God which he cannot disobey. He has sensed that becoming a priest was in the last analysis, not his own doing. Like St. Paul, he was called to be a priest of Jesus Christ by the will of God.”

Fr Coniaris also writes, “Scripture speaks of this call in Hebrews 5:4 ‘And one does not take the honor (priesthood) upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.’”