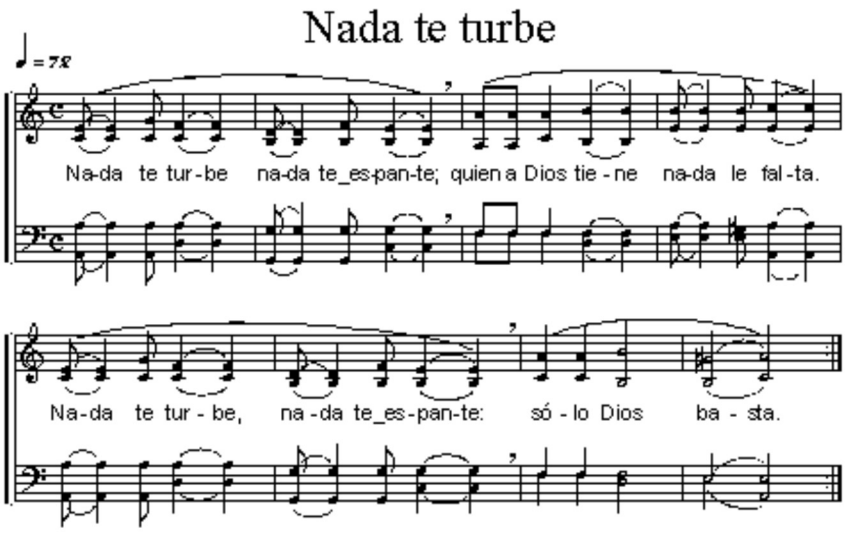
# Theme 2: The Master Who Calls You

*1 – Welcome–Hymn*

*2 – Presentation of the theme*

As we set out on the path of life we are all seeking authenticity and truth. Jesus, the Master, wants to be at the heart of that search and invites young people to break down the barriers which block human and spiritual growth, replacing these barriers with a strong and committed relationship with Him. Nothing need disturb us, because God's presence is life-giving.

*3 – Hymn*

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Music: J. Berthier
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*4. Invocation to the Holy Spirit for listening to the Word*

**T** – Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit so that we may be helped to read the Scriptures with the same insight you shared with your disciples on the road to Emmaus. With the light of your Word revealed in the Bible, you helped your disciples discover God's presence in the disturbing events of your condemnation and death. Thus the cross, which seemed to mark the death of hope, became for them a source of life and resurrection.

Create in us a stillness so we can hear your voice in creation and in Scripture, in events and in people, especially in the poor and suffering. May your word guide us so that we too, like the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, may know the power of your resurrection and witness to others that you live now among us, the true source of fraternity, justice and peace. This we ask you, Jesus, Son of Mary, you who revealed the Father to us and sent us your Spirit. Amen.

*5 – A reading from the Gospel according to John (John 1,35-51)*

**Reader 1** - *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" * (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter). The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

*6–Silence (3')*

*7–Short commentary on the text*

**Reader 2** – *Very often the most important or most meaningful encounters in life come about in unexpected ways or seem to result from a set of coincidences. The same could be said for the first disciples. In the Gospel St John's account of the call of the first apostles unfolds over two days (vv. 35 and 43) The first two disciples set out to follow John the Baptist but suddenly find themselves caught up with and drawn to Jesus.*

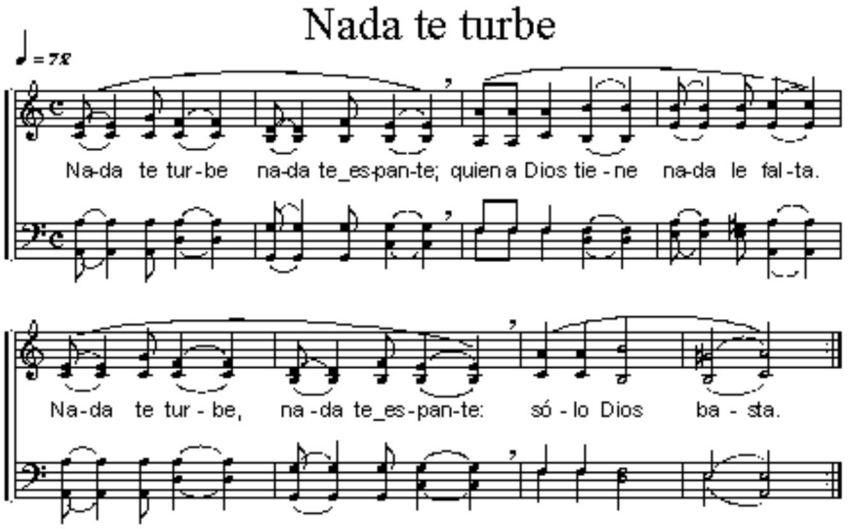
**Reader 3** – *John the Baptist does not claim the followers for himself but, in keeping with his calling as Christ's herald, lives concretely what he expresses in words: "He must grow greater, I must grow less" (John 3,30). John is a voice, the cousin and friend of the Bridegroom, determined to direct his own followers towards the one true Master. Of course, even the Baptist had to undergo his own conversion, because his ideas about the Messiah were totally different from the way that Jesus presented himself (cf. Lk 7, 18-28). John fixed his gaze on Jesus (v. 36), almost as if he wanted to evoke the mystery of his person and his spiritual dynamism.*

**Reader 4** – *This is the context for the first words Jesus addressed to the disciples: "What are you looking for?" Jesus does not offer fame or fortune… He appeals directly to the deepest questions and desires that lie at the heart of each person. The disciples go,*

*they see Jesus and they stay with Him: this is the way of all believers: set out on the journey in order to stay with Christ. John the Baptist gazes at Jesus, but Jesus in turn gazes at Peter (v. 42). It is a piercing gaze that seduces Peter's inner world. Jesus' does not give easy, safe answers: "Come and see" (v. 39). The priority is sharing our life and forming a relationship with the Master. Following Jesus is an adventure; the journey is far from reassuring, because it always requires us to risk letting ourselves be involved with the unpredictable presence of God. And this encounter cannot fail to be contagious!*

*8 – Silence (2')*

*9 – Hymn*

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*10 – Read or listen to the Word again – **Reader 1** – Gospel according to John (John 1,35-51)*

*11 – Sharing (with questions and intercessory prayers)*
*Some questions for us*

*1. For his disciples, John the Baptist was a guide and educator directing them towards an encounter with Jesus. Who has been like John the Baptist in my own life?*
*2. Jesus says to his disciples: "What are you looking for?" What am I really looking for in Jesus and in his Church? What are the deepest questions of my heart?*
*3. "To fix one's gaze". Through what lens do I read my personal life and my faith? Were there any "eyes" that looked on me with tenderness and love? And with what eyes do I look on the people around me?*

*12 – Psalm 84, 1-13*

*How lovely your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!*

*My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD.*
*My heart and flesh cry out for the living God.*

*As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest to settle her young,*
*My home is by your altars, LORD of hosts, my king and my God!*

*Happy are those who dwell in your house! They never cease to praise you. Selah*

*Happy are those who find refuge in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrim roads.*

*As they pass through the Baca valley, they find spring water to drink.*
*Also from pools the Lord provides water for those who lose their way.*

*They pass through outer and inner wall and see the God of gods on Zion.*

*LORD of hosts, hear my prayer;*
*listen, God of Jacob. Selah*

*O God, look kindly on our shield;*
*look upon the face of your anointed.*

*Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.*
*Better the threshold of the house of my God than a home in the tents of the wicked.*

*For a sun and shield is the LORD God, bestowing all grace and glory.*
*The LORD withholds no good thing from those who walk without reproach.*

*O LORD of hosts, happy are those who trust in you!*

*13 – Mandate (personal commitment to practice until the next meeting)*

*14- Final hymn and sign of peace.*