

WE ARE SENT... WE ARE A MISSIONARY CHURCH

We continue our journey, meditating on the life of Jesus. He heads toward Jerusalem; but he expresses his desire that his disciples and those he appoints be bearers of the good news and prepare the way for his arrival in Jerusalem.

Jesus wants to associate us all with his mission, beginning with his disciples; and for this reason, he appoints 72 other disciples. This means that the mission is not just for a few, but this mission of announcing the good news is for all, including each one of us, as baptized persons.

Sometimes it is thought that the missionary-evangelizing task of the Church is solely the responsibility of priests and religious. But this is not so. Each of us, from our own reality and vocation, is invited to continue this task.

Thus, Jesus sends his disciples out two by two, symbolizing firstly the need to serve in community and for the community. And secondly, to make the gospel credible through the experience of fraternal love.

And here it is important to note that every Christian couple has, at their core, the mission of being evangelizers, because they are the first ones who should transmit the faith to their children with their example and their teachings. Unfortunately, today, there is no awareness of this essential part of family life, and others are left to shape the hearts of their children, the littlest ones.

Each of us, from our job, profession, or vocation, must make Christ and his message present; it is truly within everyone's reach.

Hence the importance of supporting the mission with our prayer. Jesus expresses a deep desire of his heart: pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his fields; thus emphasizing that this element is essential to the mission. There can be no mission without prayer.

In Christ's desire for the good news to reach every corner of the earth, the prophecy Isaiah presents to us in the first reading is fulfilled: rejoice in Jerusalem, for I will make peace flow over her like a river.

Today, it is still necessary for Christ's message to be made known through our words, our actions, our generosity, and our time.

We should not give to God only the time we have left over, or when we feel like it; loving God is always and without excuses.

The Lord, who is not outdone in generosity, always rewards every effort, every struggle, every commitment for his cause and for the gospel.

We have heard how the disciples, after carrying out their mission, return filled with joy. It is the joy of knowing that the task has been accomplished. It is the joy that springs from reaffirming their faith by sharing it, but Jesus also invites them to fully embrace that joy, not only for having fulfilled the mission, but also because their names are written in heaven. Let us feel blessed to be invited to work in the field, which is the Church. Let us revalue the meaning of wearing a cross on our chest, perhaps a rosary or a medal. This expresses, in addition to our belonging to God, the commitment to carry out the mission. Let us not put off until tomorrow what we can do today.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin, who carried this good news to Christ, her Son, in her womb, to intercede for us, so that by exercising our missionary nature, we may invite others to turn their hearts and lives to Christ the Lord. AMEN.