

“Without cost, you have received, without cost you are to give.”

Watching your friend making decisions that can lead him to misery and ruin, you may find it impossible, not to get involved and to offer help or advice. Yet in return, you may receive resentment. What are your options, then?

The message that comes from today's gospel is, 'to *live simply and share the message of salvation* as best as you can', because your task is "to know the gospel deeper, live the gospel faithfully and share the good news joyfully".

In today's first reading Moses exhorts the people of Israel to fidelity to God who saved them from the slavery in Egypt "on Eagles Wings"; therefore, they require to listen to His voice, and they shall be His "special possession". Paul will remind us that this God proves his love for us by allowing his Son Jesus to die for us, while we are still sinners.

By commissioning of the twelve apostles Jesus sends forth his followers 'with authority' to proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom and to bring healing to those who need it most. The 12 should be walking illustrations of God's love and mercy in action, inviting people from a self-centered life to a God-centered life. Their *authority* is not of worldly origin, but from divine grace, by the 'power of the Holy Spirit': *to cure the sick, to clean the leper, to drive out demons*'. Jesus did this, because he was moved with compassion, seeing the flock abandoned, as if like sheep without a shepherd.

Do you believe that such a mission is irrelevant today? Do you feel compassion to the many 'abandoned sheep' around us? We observe how the world around moves today. The power of the demon is impacting many, who chose not to listen to God/ His good news; and on the other side, those who have received the gift of the Spirit, 'hide their light under bushel, or feel indifferent to their task of sharing the light, with courage, conviction and joy.

On Pentecost Sunday, we reflected on Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Letter on the theme: "*You will be my Witnesses*". How can we be His witnesses today? Here we once again are invited to understand better the task of the twelve apostles, as it's high time for each one of us, as part of the Body of Christ, to move and act as a *church of missionary disciples*. Today we commission the second group of SET-Members. Why? We are making concrete steps, to give formation to Small Groups Ministry in our parish community. So that, "the gifts and charism that the Holy Spirit distributes to lay people, men and women may be powerfully exercised". This enables parish community to effectively nurture the inter-relationships and spiritual growth of many groups of Christians.

Small groups are at the service of the parish renewal. This is exactly what happened to apostolic church, in its beginning, as a charismatic church, with fire in the hearts of the faithful. 'There is no committing of "*all of church's energies to the sharing of the Good News, without the missionary commitment of **all of the baptized***". The Holy Spirit acts not only through the sacraments, but also from below, through the network of grace established by the charisms of all the believers. As a Parish, we are a community of communities, a big family of small groups, a family of families. Sharing faith is easier in small groups and to grow in holiness, together. A renewed parish always needs the collaboration of every member of the parish.

Those commissioned last Sunday and today, will now start discerning and discovering potential leaders for Small Groups: The SGM are a privileged home for charisms (gifts). In SGM, the faithful can discover their charisms; cultivate and express their charisms; put their charisms at the service of others. Share their faith and grow in holiness together, day-by-day. As the church in its early days, the 12 (SET) shall grow into 72- reaching out to all members and families in our parish community, in this great mission of missionary disciples.