



Thoughts on the Journey...

Suanne Gettings - Pastoral Associate - July 7, 2019

The call to discipleship, for every Catholic person, begins when we are baptized. It is a call that goes far beyond saying our prayers each day and coming to

Mass on the weekend. Discipleship means full active participation in building the kingdom of God. So what does that really mean for us in our day-to-day lives as faithful Catholics?

The Catholic Catechism (1816) says this:

The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it: "All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks." Service and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation: "So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

In our busy lives, sometimes it's hard to get a prayer in edge-wise, let alone give witness to others. It's like anything else though, sometimes it takes a conscious energy and a daily effort to live out mercy, forgiveness, compassion, charity, and love. The more we become aware of what motivates our thoughts, words, and actions, the more we are able to see if we are living deliberately for God and his Kingdom. When our lives are driven mindlessly by a secular world and all of our energy is guided by our wants and selfish desires, we enter into a realm that pulls us away from an intimate bond with Christ.

Think about what you do in a given day. Whether you are a laborer, a homemaker, a health-care professional, a cashier, a police officer or firefighter, a senior who has physical limitations, regardless of what your tasks are in a given day, live like Christ is standing beside you - because He is!

In Luke's gospel this week Jesus is recruiting new disciples: **"...the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is**

abundant but the laborers are few;" so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way;"

There is no need to travel far to see what work needs to be done in the harvest of the Lord. The world around us tells a story of the need for laborers in this harvest of humanity. Many souls are confused and looking for their way, suffering from the human condition and a society that has lost its footing. The pendulum has clearly shifted away from God.

We can't take on the whole plantation alone, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can work in the harvest of the human family by planting the seeds of faith, one person at a time. Personal invitation is a slow but very sure way to bring people into the family of faith. It is the best outreach we have and the most effective way to welcome someone home.

Beginning in August, our parish community will work together to live the call of discipleship as we begin an effort to evangelize. Here's how you can help:

- Extend an invitation to a non-Catholic who might consider joining the RCIA process that begins in September as well as those who would like to refresh their faith.
- For Catholics who have fallen away from the Church, invite them to come to church with you. It may feel uncomfortable at first, but you will be surprised how receptive people are to the invitation. Together, as a community and as individuals, we can labor to help the harvest bloom and thrive. As we draw others to a life in Christ, we will deepen and enrich our own faith.

In closing, a quote from St. J. Escriva who professed that ordinary life is a path to sanctity:

Christian apostolate is not a political program or a cultural alternative. It implies the spreading of good, 'infecting' others with a desire to love, sowing peace and joy"