

**January 22, 2017 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in OT, Year A**  
**Calling the Disciples**

When I was a child we had a coal furnace in our basement.

That's where I learned how to build a fire.

*[demonstrate the following ... but don't light a fire!]*

We had some matches, some news paper, some kindling (twigs or small pieces of wood) and some logs.

I have used that experience in cook outs and camping and I can even remember it from old cowboy movies.

So, the job of lighting a fire requires gathering kindling to get the logs burning.

Let's remember, as we look at today's Gospel, *kindling is crucial!*

Today's Gospel tells us about the calling of the first four of the disciples: Peter and Andrew, James and John.

And in all four Gospels that calling of disciples continued:

8 more disciples were called to make a total of 12 Apostles

Then 72 disciples were called to go two-by-two to announce the arrival of Jesus.

After Jesus' death and resurrection the disciples did missionary work

- all around the mid-east ...
- and as far east as India
- and as far west as Spain ...
- and as far south as Ethiopia.

They had the "Good News" to spread and they got the reputation of being a "joyful band of missionary disciples".

The call grew and over the centuries people organized more groups of missionary disciples: Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans and Jesuits to name just a few.

And Christianity grew and grew ... over 2.2 billion at last count!

Recently there was a change.

Oh yes, the call kept coming.

It was the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis who changed the call.

In his document on the Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis let us know that we are ALL called to be part of that "Joyful Band of Missionary Disciples."

Yes, we are ALL called to be part of that "Joyful Band of Missionary Disciples."

No, we don't have to become a Jesuit or a Franciscan!

No, we don't have to go to a foreign country!

Well, then what are we to do?

Hold that thought!

Just two months ago our Archbishop Vigneron gathered about 400 people at Synod 16, to work on ideas for individuals, families, parishes and the Archdiocese, ideas for how we can make such a drastic change.

The Archbishop even termed it with the challenging words: "changing our DNA"!

How to have ALL of us join a "Joyful Band of Missionary Disciples"?

The Archdiocese is distilling the Synod 16 conclusions and, at Pentecost of this year, the Archbishop will provide us all with direction.

But, people are not sitting on their hands waiting for the report to be issued.

For instance, here's one idea that has been recommended.

Let's go back to the log fire.

Remember, the kindling is crucial to start a fire!

So, how do we ALL become like that kindling - and make things happen?

Remember this prayer to the Holy Spirit?

"Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and *kindle* in them the fire of your love."

So, in our human world kindle can mean:

- To light a fire
- To arouse
- To inspire.

Ah Ha! To "kindle the love of God"!

That's what a "Joyful Band of Missionary Disciples" does.

To "Kindle the L.O.G." [*show as a visual*]

A team of us here at Corpus Christ has come up with some suggestions to get us all started in joining the joyful band.

The ushers are going to hand out a short little guide for us to review.

You will NOT be turning it in to anyone!

It is for you to read, to pray over, and to consider for YOUR life ... not my life, not your neighbor's life, ... just for YOUR life.

When you get the handout you will see that it has three ratings for the ideas on how to be kindling.

*We will have more ideas in future months.*

**Corpus Christi Catholic Community**  
**'Joyful band of missionary disciples'**

- A. Please give each of these ideas a little prayerful reflection.  
 B. Then give each idea a rating about how hard it would be for you to try it.

The ratings are simply:

**E** Easy, a "walk in the park" for me to do!

**M** Moderate, "just my speed" for me to do!

**C** Challenging, "a real challenge" for me to do!

- C. Choose one that fits you and *work it into your life style* this month.

- E M C** 1. Wear a Corpus Christi T-shirt to some non-church event (like a picnic or a ball game or a school event)
- E M C** 2. Say a meal prayer and make the Sign of the Cross before eating at a restaurant
- E M C** 3. Give someone a church bulletin (like a neighbor, a buddy at work ...)
- E M C** 4. Give a witness talk at the announcement time at Sunday Mass. (like we did last summer)
- E M C** 5. Invite a family member who has not been coming to church to an Easter or Christmas Mass, or a funeral, or any Sunday Mass. Or a Baptism or a First Communion ... it may re-awaken old memories.

*--- Kindle the LOG - Inspire others to the Love Of God ---*

Please take this guide home and give it some prayerful consideration.  
 Let's ALL join the "Joyful Band of Missionary Disciples"!!!!