

Homily: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 7 2019

Pope Francis wants me a catholic Christian, to be a 'missionary disciple', to learn from Jesus. – A disciple is someone who learns from Jesus. A missionary, on the other hand, takes the good news to others. - It is tempting to think, that the disciple is the apprentice.- The missionary is the expert. But Francis reminds me that the two go together. The learner is the one who evangelises. The evangelist is always the learner. - Do I want my faith to grow? - Share it with others!

In the gospel I just heard, Jesus did not send out, the 12 apostles, the experts, - but the 72 disciples. I am sent to the places that Jesus will visit later. Places where there is already a harvest waiting. God has already been at work planting seeds. The Lord is following afterwards, to the places where there is already a harvest waiting. God has already been at work planting the seeds. As a missionary disciple I do not have to begin the work or bring it to completion, - evangelization is God's work, to bring it to completion, - I just need to play my little part. What will I need to take for the journey? NOTHING! All the resources I need is myself and what I will find when I arrive. –Talk about travelling light. How will I know where to go, or what to speak? I go where I find a welcome.

What will I say? I will give them a blessing of peace to whoever welcomes me.

As I reach out to others, my own faith is strengthened. Faith grows when I share it. When I hoard the gospel my faith will shrink, I will become dusty and boring. Does being a missionary disciple sound too difficult or, the task for someone else? Pope Francis says "I have been entrusted with a treasure which makes me more human, and helps me lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which I can give to others. It is by giving to others that I will discover the riches of what I have.

Someone once said that evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. I am not called to be an expert. As a missionary disciple I just share what I already have !

AMEN