

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**Friday, 18 October 2019**

Luke 10:1-9

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As we experience the motivation and inspiration of the extra ordinary mission month declared by Pope Francis, we have a gospel passage that speaks about the mission of the disciples of Jesus Christ for our reflection today. This passage becomes all the more relevant as we have the feast of St. Luke, a vibrant missionary disciple of Jesus. Through his gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, he inspires to set the minds and hearts of everyone to accept the challenges of becoming the missionary disciples of Jesus.

In the gospel passage of the day we see Jesus appointing seventy- two disciples and sending them on ahead of him. He gives them clear instructions as they take upon the mission. The point to be noted is chapter 10, verse 1b, which says, “where he himself intended to go.” The mission is always characterized by the invitation to become another Christ in the places wherever we are. Jesus sent his disciples two by two because he could not go by himself to all those places. So, they had to become the extension of Christ to those places where they were sent. In order to become the extension of Jesus Christ they had to empty themselves and their own plans. That is why Jesus was instructing them like they should not carry purse, bag, sandals, etc.

We all of are invited to become missionaries wherever we are. It means to become the extension of Jesus Christ for others. For this we should be able to forgo our prejudices and be open to the place and situations where we are. As I came to the Ghana mission, I had so many prejudices and wrong attitudes towards the people. So, for a few weeks I could not mingle with the people around freely. But then gradually I experienced the open and loving hearts and attitude of people. The approach of the people simply vanished all my prejudices and wrong information I received. It brought me an awareness of the original vision of Jesus’ mission which tells me to empty myself to become an extension of Jesus. Once I was open, I was able to accept the as they are and that brought a warmth in our relationships. Then my celebration of the Eucharist and different sacraments became so experiential for me and the people could witness the enriching presence of Jesus during the administration of sacraments.

During this Divine Liturgy let us pray to the Lord to strengthen us to empty our selfishness and prejudices that we may be able to become an enriching extension of Jesus’ presence in our day today life. Amen.

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