

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019

Wednesday, 23 October 2019

29th Week in Ordinary Time

Readings: Rom 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-48

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Both the readings of the day point to the gifts entrusted to you and me. My body is a gift to me I should make every part of my body into a weapon fighting on the side of God (Rom 6:13). Once we belong to God, we must use all things as they bring us closer to God. Baptism made us belonging to God. Through baptism, "all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples" (EG 120). God is Spirit, he has no body. We have to use ours to bring His Message to the world. Our eyes, hands, feet are His own. God wants to use what He has given us as instruments. An instrument should have two potentials: (1) It must be suitable into the hand of him who wants to use it (2) It should be suitable for the work to be done. To achieve these two potentials is our task.

Gospel today reminds that we are only the administrators of the Master's mission which is entrusted to us to take care. We are not authors of the mission. Therefore, we should ask ourselves two important questions.

1. What has been entrusted to me? 2. What am I doing with it?

We have been entrusted with a great mission – the mission of Jesus is continued through the mission of the Church. Whoever is entrusted with any task is responsible. Two qualities are expected: He must be faithful and wise. The missionary – the sent one (apostle) – is the watch-person over the truth. He has to know the Word and will of the Master, and has no excuse when he falls short of doing his duty. The greater the office, the greater is the responsibility. He who has been given more, from him more will be demanded. Office in the Church is not the chance to boss and to have a good time.

Three days ago, Pope Francis twitted three messages on World Mission Sunday – 20/10/2019

1. "In the midst of this missionary month, let us ask ourselves: what really counts in my life? To what peaks do I want to ascend?"
2. "This is our mission: to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words, that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone."
3. "Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission: it is not a burden to be borne, but a gift to offer."

They are security checks for the mission entrusted to us. Where are we, what are we doing with the mission entrusted to us. God has withheld nothing from us. "His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3).

Recently canonized St. John Henry Cardinal Newman had composed a beautiful prayer titled "*I have a Mission*". It is a reminder for all of us that every one of us is a mission and has a mission entrusted no matter where we are in life, even in the midst of what may seem to be our deepest struggle; we are still called, chosen and equipped for His mission. We are the ones who have been given much. It has been entrusted to us. Now, much more is required. Newman's prayer follows:

Oh My God, you have created me do some definite service. You have committed some work to me that you have not committed to another. I have my mission; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I will trust you, whatever, wherever I am. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve you. If I am in perplexity, my perplexity may serve you. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve you. You do nothing in vain. You know what you are about. Though friends be taken away, though I feel desolate, though my spirits sink, though my future is hidden from me, yet I will trust you, for you know what you are about. I ask not so much to see as to be used: through Christ our Lord. Amen.