



Clavian
MISSIONARY
YEAR
To Love Is Our Mission!



GFASC –Missionary Year – Reflection 14 **To love is our mission**

CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM

LUKE 9: 1-7

He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal [the sick]. He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.” Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere. Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, “John has been raised from the dead.”

The disciple can have no mission unless he has a deep bond with the master. It is the master who sends the disciple out and gives him the strength he needs for the mission. It is he who confirms the mission with signs. The list of the Twelve is not included in the Gospels by chance. It indicates to us that mission is not the work of individuals. It shows us that Jesus called a group, a community to proclaim and build the Kingdom with words and actions. It tells us that there are many ministries and charisms, that we need not be saints or superheroes. It shows us that Jesus knew his own intimately. Once again the Gospel emphasizes that mission is the fruit of “instruction,” that it means to put Jesus’ word into practice. The missionary, then, must be faithful to the will of Jesus, docile to his instructions. But what specifically must the missionary do?

He must speak to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel”; he must preach that “the Reign of God is near.” He must be close to others, heal the sick, dispel demons.

Having personally experienced the free gift of salvation, the missionary knows the only security in life is Jesus and his Word.

THE CHURCH

“Jesus sent the Twelve to carry out their first mission. Their word was to proclaim the Kingdom, but also to demonstrate it in the world with signs and wonders. Every disciple of Jesus must know and practice his personal way of proclaiming and manifesting the Reign of God. The Kingdom is always proclaimed and made present.” (*Pope Francis, September 26, 2018*)

A person who is ill must not be left alone in solitude. One of the works of mercy is to visit the sick, and Jesus warns us that this is one of the criteria on which we will be judged at the end of time: “I was sick and you visited me . . . I was sick and you did not visit me” (Matthew 25: 36, 43). Here we must apply the maxim, “Don’t neglect the important for the urgent!” To visit a sick person, even for just a few moments, is an important act. But since often it is not urgent, we put it off, sometimes until it is too late. Something all of us can do for those who are ill is to pray for them. Almost all the sick in the Gospel were cured because someone brought them to Jesus and prayed for them. The simplest prayer that all of us can make our own is that of Martha and Mary, who said to Jesus of their brother Lazarus, “Lord, the one whom you love is ill!” (*Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa*)

“We must increase our apostolic zeal to pass on to others the light and joy of the faith, and to this high ideal the whole People of God must be educated. We cannot be content when we consider the millions of our brothers sisters, who like us have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, but who live in ignorance of the love of God. For each believer, as for the entire Church, the missionary task must remain foremost, for it concerns the eternal destiny of

humanity and corresponds to God's mysterious and merciful plan.”
(*Redemptoris Missio*, John Paul II, n. 86)

MOTHER CLELIA

Formed by Mother Clelia at the school of the Heart of Jesus and animated by the zeal of the Apostles, we are called to witness through our works to the one Lord, the only Good, with the aim of making Him known in every corner of the world. Mother Clelia teaches us how to evangelize: “He wants me to treat everyone with respect and goodness and to find my happiness in the delicate attention and loving kindness that the true charity of Christ inspires and humility carries out. [He wants me] to suffer any rebuke, insult, rudeness or slight from others without complaining and without doing anything to make anyone suffer.” (*Diary*, p. 175)

“Oh, how happy I would be if I could see you animated by a holy zeal, by an ardent desire to spread out over the whole earth to make God loved and praised everywhere, saying with St. Francis Xavier: “As long as I know of one corner of the earth where God is not loved, I cannot enjoy one moment of rest!” Despite its great desire to make God loved, zeal is able to contain itself and is never rude. The language of zeal is always moderate, its actions always deliberate, gentleness and prudence always preside over its actions and win over hearts. (Spiritual Anthology, p. 175)

DEPARTURE OF MOTHER CLELIA’S DAUGHTERS FOR BOSTON (1902)

Sr. Domenica Geminiani - Sr. Luigia Bertoletti - Sr. Berchmans Oliva - Sr. Vincenza Alasia - Sr. Edvige Sartori - Sr. Filomena Bedogni

“Happy are you, Sisters. The Motherhouse, I repeat, envies and blesses you and on the wings of the wind over the ocean, on the wings of a fervent prayer, sends to you, day and night, the greetings of those who are bound to you in a happy dream of a holy

apostolate. Goodbye, Sisters! Or rather, farewell until we meet again at every sunrise in the Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament when, at a distance of thousands of miles, we will be nourished by the same Food, kneel at the same Table, be held close in colloquy with the same God—with that good God in whose love, the pains of exile having ceased, we will find again eternal, splendid recompense for all the sufferings of life...a life which flies by so quickly here on earth to then last for all eternity either in darkness, weeping and torment or in the peace of the heavenly Kingdom.”
(Notebooks of Spirituality 9)

CONSIDER

- “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.”
(Gal. 6: 9-10)
 - Let us have the courage to respond, like Isaiah, “Here I am, Lord, send me.” (Is. 6:8)
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PRAYER

Lord Jesus, through the initiative and courage of the apostles you have given the light of your word to all peoples. Make us open to the grace of being missionaries in our families, in our parishes, and wherever the Lord calls us. Help us understand that only by opening the doors to You will we find the truest and deepest meaning of life. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we may live as brothers and sisters. Enlighten and support the Missionaries throughout the world. Mary, Queen of the family and Queen of peace, sustain us on our journey. Amen

