

Go and Share the Good News!

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Imagine a young woman on a crowded subway, headphones in, scrolling through her phone. Next to her sits an older man quietly reading. At the next stop, a street preacher boards the train, raising his voice about repentance and salvation. Many passengers look away, uncomfortable. But the young woman, stirred by something deeper, strikes up a quiet conversation with the man next to her. "Do you believe in God?" she asks. He nods. They begin a brief but meaningful exchange about faith, hope, and how the world seems in need of something greater. No microphones. No crowds. Just one soul reaching out to another.

In today's Gospel from Luke, Jesus sends out 72 disciples ahead of him "to every town and place he intended to visit." These disciples are not famous preachers or miracle workers—they are ordinary followers who go out in pairs, carrying no money, no extra supplies, and relying on the kindness of strangers. What they carry instead is peace, healing, and the message that the Kingdom of God is near. What does this say to us? Are we waiting to be asked, trained, or ordained before we speak of Jesus? Or do we believe, like those disciples, that the mission belongs to all of us?

The Gospel reminds us that evangelization isn't reserved for pulpits or podiums. It happens on subways, in break rooms, in classrooms, and on front porches. When you reach out to someone in kindness, when you listen without judgment, when you pray with someone who is hurting, you are living the mission. You are proclaiming that God is near.

When the 72 return, they are overjoyed: "Even the demons are subject to us because of your name!" They have seen the power of Christ work through them, and they rejoice. But Jesus gently redirects their joy: "Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven." This is a crucial point. The success of our mission is not about numbers, achievements, or accolades. It's not even about casting out demons. It's about relationship—our relationship with God and our identity as beloved children whose names are written in the Book of Life.

So, how are you being sent today? Who in your life needs to hear a word of hope or feel the peace of Christ? Are you willing to trust, like the 72, that God will provide what you need to share his message?

The Church is missionary by nature. Every baptized Catholic is called not just to believe but to share. Evangelization is not an optional accessory to our faith: it is its beating heart.

Saint John Paul II said: "All who believe in Christ should feel, as an integral part of their faith, an apostolic concern to pass on to others its light and joy. This concern must become, as it were, a hunger and thirst to make the Lord known, given the vastness of the non-Christian world."

Let us go out, then, with courage and joy—just as the 72 did.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy