

Daily Homily

Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday

2 September 2020

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I was thinking about parish missions that we have had over the years. I remember some really good speakers, however, I have to admit, I really have to think hard about the topic of their mission. The purpose of a parish mission is to guide us through a time, like the season of Lent, with more focus and direction. A parish mission is not necessarily going to change the whole course of our life.

Jesus has a mission. We heard that mission on Monday:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me,  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*

Today we hear those words become a reality and become action. Jesus liberates health and well-being in the life of sick people, he frees souls that are overcome by demons, he brings sight to those blinded into thinking that they will never be whole ever again. The mission is happening. Also, he cannot be confined to one place, to one town. He must keep moving and spreading this mission to wherever and for whomever will receive it.

After he left, I wonder, what happened? After a parish mission there may be some conversation about it and some evaluation for the next time. When Jesus left, however, he changed lives. People were able to pick up and start all over again. People rendered unclean and therefore cast out of family and community, were brought out of their quarantine and reunited. People who were thought strange with demons were made healthy and whole. These people must have talked about the change in their life. How Jesus touched them. What he said to them. What his presence meant to them. He not only healed, but he left with them a piece of his mission fulfilled and a piece of his mission that they in turn proclaimed.

Jesus has touched our lives. Jesus has spoken words to us. Jesus is in our presence. That experience and that encounter is everything. Do we know the impact of his life on our own lives? Do we know what he has done for us? Where he has healed us, reconciled us, freed us, helped us? If not, take this to prayer. The answer is inside of us. It's there. Otherwise, why would we be here today? And not only has Jesus done this for us, but he has also left us with part of his mission fulfilled. So go the next step, talk about it with others ... in word and deed. Next time someone asks for a prayer, stop right there and pray with them. Next time someone is troubled, direct them to stop at church for some quiet time. Next time, someone is sick or down, bring them the presence of Jesus through your compassion.

In this way, let the good news of the Kingdom of God be proclaimed.