

Daily Homily  
25 Ordinary Time, Wednesday  
St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)  
Memorial  
23 September 2020  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

I learned one value of this Gospel on the occasion of going to Italy and having my luggage lost. There was a delay in Chicago because of weather. Then the flight to Italy was cancelled. I was told the luggage would be transferred the next day to our morning flight. It never happened. Standing in the terminal in Rome, the conveyor belt just kept going around and around, people were selecting their luggage and leaving. As the crowd diminished and moved on, I felt like I was the last person picked for a kickball game.

The initial feeling was panic and frustration. However, after day two or three, I owned it and accepted it. I bought what was necessary and had only my hand held bag to worry about. It actually became a rather liberating experience. I felt unhindered. I was not weighed down at all. I did not have to manage as much. I had the essentials, no extras. I came to realize that I did not really need the extras. On that trip I learned a valuable lesson. To this day, I pack one bag and it is always a small carry on with only the essentials.

Jesus sends his Apostles out on a mission to spread the Good News. They are to do so with only the essentials. The essentials do not include food or money but only what Jesus has shared with them. They are to go unhindered and not weighed down with their excess. I am thinking this also includes what weighs them down with regard to their own issues, agendas, sins, and transgressions. When we are sent, and sent without the baggage we carry with our hands or the baggage we carry with our emotional state, it should be liberating so that we can liberate others with the proclamation of some great Good News found in Jesus Christ.

What essentials of faith do you carry? What excessive baggage do you need to dump? Who are you being sent to today in order to proclaim the Good News of Christ?