

Daily Homily
Fourth Week, Ordinary Time, Wednesday
1 February 2023
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This Gospel is a challenge to evangelization. Evangelization has always been part of the Church's mission, however, since Pope John Paul II, the word and the work of evangelization has taken up a new force in our current age and culture.

Evangelization is about many things... it's about rallying the troops, so to speak... it's about spreading the Good News... it's about calling and inviting others to join us.

But the work only goes so far as the response, as seen in the Gospel today. Jesus rallied the troops in the Synagogue, he spoke Good News, he called and invited – yet, nothing happened. Faith is a response, and that was lacking.

It's not so removed from us though. That's a challenge to the spiritual life. How many times do we go to prayer and we think that it will be business as usual? How many times do we think, well Jesus is too busy or too removed or too ordinary for my requests and prayers? We may sometimes dummy him down. That's what the townspeople thought, "He's the guy from next door... His family of cousins is from around here... He's a carpenter." That is a response. Not necessarily the response Jesus wants.

May he rally us... give us Good News... call us and invite us and may our response be, not business as usual... but rather the response that led our ancient ancestors of old all the way through Mother Mary and the Apostles, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."