

Homily of 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time of Year A

Today is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is organized by the Propagation of the Faith. It is a Sunday set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activities through prayer and sacrifice. We are invited to, constantly, pray for the success of Church's missionary activities all over the world, and, also, support the activities financially. The second collection of today is for this purpose.

In the readings of today are individuals God sent on various missions. In the Gospel is Jesus whose mission was to save the world. In the first reading is Cyrus, although he was a Persian pagan king, God anointed him and gave him the mission to set the people of Israel free from Babylonian captivity. In the second reading are Paul, Silvanus and Timothy. God gave them the mission of preaching the Good News. We recall that Paul was a murderer and persecutor of Christians, but God made him "a chosen instrument" (Acts 9:15).

A few other names come to mind: In the Old Testament, God chose Moses to take the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt, although he was "slow of speech and tongue" (Exodus 10:4). God chose David to rule over his people although he was the youngest among his brothers and away in the field tending sheep (1 Samuel 16:11). God chose Jeremiah to prophesy to his people although he was a child and did not know how to speak (Jeremiah 1:7). In the New Testament, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus although she came from a very lowly background. Jesus, himself, chose unlearned men to be his apostles.

God has given each one of us the mission of bringing God's blessings on someone, or on a people or on a place. Some people know their mission, have accepted it and are committed to it. Caring for their private needs does not prevent them from the mission God has given them. They are able to give to God what belongs to God and to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Some people know their mission but self-interest and pursuit of their own private needs do not allow them to become instruments of blessings to others. Some people are, in fact, a problem to others instead of a blessing.

Let us pray with Ron Kenoly:

*If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
Take my hands, Lord, and my feet.
Touch my heart, Lord, and speak through me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
Take my hands, Lord, and my feet.
Touch my heart, Lord, and speak through me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
Lord, You called Moses from the wilderness and You put a rod in his hand.
You used him to lead Your people over to the Promised Land.
Lord, I'm willing to trust in You, so take my life Lord and use it too.
Yes, if You can use anything Lord, come on and use me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.
If You can use anything Lord, You can use me.*

There are people who have time for every other thing except their spiritual life. They have time for their job, for vacation, for recreation, for shopping, for exercise, for eating, for sleeping, for gadgets and social media and so on, but time to attend to their spiritual life. They have given to Caesar what belongs to God.

Questions for reflection: What mission or responsibility have I committed myself to for the benefit of others? Am I a blessing or problem to others? Is there a balance between the time I have for my spiritual life and the time I have for my physical life?

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