

Homily
Friday of the 2nd Week of OT
January 19, 2024

Jesus appointed twelve new leaders for a new Israel. The twelve are called “apostles,” a title which means “one sent out.” They are authorized to act as Jesus’ envoys and representatives.

On the one hand, they are tasked with being with Jesus. On the other, they are sent out to preach and drive out demons. Each is given a choice and each, save one, chose to obey God and live in alignment with His Will.

The Apostles have different backgrounds, capabilities, and personalities. Everything they are, all their talents and abilities, unique to each, yet a reflection of God, can be placed at the service of God’s merciful Kingdom, specifically, the family of God, the Body of Christ.

However, only from intimate communion with Jesus will their apostolic ministry bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. The Apostles are to proclaim the Kingdom of God not only through their words but also by their actions. The Kingdom they proclaim and extend is in the world but not of the world. Over time they will learn that they will suffer for this Kingdom and that one of its main characteristics is merciful love.

Isn’t it the same with us? We are called, each to our own ministry, husband, wife, deacon, priest, consecrated, celibate, all based on our God-given gifts and our own desires. The choices we make can be in alignment with God’s Will or our own. We are all called to an apostolic ministry at the service of God’s merciful Kingdom, specifically, the family of God, the Body of Christ.

How we respond to God’s call is the challenge we face every day. Sometimes, I struggle to get out of bed; it’s warm and comfortable. I know that as soon as I put my feet on the floor, my day begins with all its struggles and challenges.

God knows this; He is not only a merciful God, but He is intimately familiar with each and every one of us, knowing every hair on our heads, every thought, every concern, every desire. And He is with us, encouraging us, supporting us. Just as Jesus did with His Apostles, Jesus does for us today, in the Word proclaimed, in the Sacrament we are about to receive, Jesus is our advocate, our support, our lifeline.

Just as the Apostles had the choice, we choose every day when we get out of bed. Every day is a new beginning, to choose to follow Jesus. We are afforded every grace and blessing as the Apostles, according to our needs and abilities. It’s up to us to decide and take action.