

October 2024

Dear Friend in Christ.

On 1st Oct , we will be celebrating the feast of a great saint St Terese of Lisieux , the Little Flower. She is also known as St Terese of the Child Jesus. She is widely venerated even now in our modern time. Before her death she said *"I feel that my mission is about to begin, my mission to make God loved as I loved Him, to teach souls my little way"*. When her sister, Mother Agnes of Jesus asked her *"And what is this little way you want to teach to souls?"* Thérèse answered: *"It's the way of spiritual childhood, the way of trust and absolute surrender."* (take a moment to take in her words).

And on mission, in his recent Apostolic visit to Papua New Guinea the Pope also mentioned mission and he said that our mission is precisely to spread the beauty of the Gospel of Christ through loving God and our brothers and sisters.

So the take-away for our reflection is - ***Are we inspired people with the enthusiasm for mission? Are we men and women ready to be called to mission to be messengers of His love, to serve the poor, and needy, the sick, and drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity.***

Right now, our world, our country and even our church are in the midst of a very challenging/chaotic times. And it's in these times mission take on a special resonance. And if we look back over Christian history, it is precisely during these times like these God has raised up His greatest saints - St Paul, St Francis, St Dominic, St Thomas More the list goes on and on.....Yes, God does not leave us hanging today! We believe He is raising up men and women right now - as He has done in the past - to help lead, guide and inspire us to live the Gospel, share the good news of who Jesus is, and to love and care for the least among us. And guess what? The man and woman God is raising is You! and Me! Yes, that's right us! Jesus wants to help us become a person transformed by our encounter with His Eucharistic presence and willing to go with Him on mission in both big and small ways: especially mindful of our call to love and care for the least among us.

A reminder for all of us in Mt 5: 13-20 we are told in no uncertain terms as Jesus' disciples and followers we are to be the Salt of the earth and Light of the world. Unfortunately, many of us have these in our minds: fear, worry, laziness, doubt, etc. Most would have these questions in their heads:

- Who am I? I'm not equipped.
- I'm overwhelmed with my own work.
- I'm too tired.
- God doesn't know I exist. Why would He use me?

A thousand other excuses to excuse ourselves from God's divine nudge. I repeat divine nudge.

Will we dare to take the God's Dare if God calls on us to? Do we dare to believe that God doesn't just dare us, He also equips us and take the leap right besides us! He is well aware that we can't begin to say yes without His help. We can be assured if it's God's yes He will give us His big smile and nod His head. His holy high five beckoning us to believe and take His word and for all of us to let go of our fear, doubt, guilt, and pride and say yes to His Yes. It's God's offer to each of us to choose to be chosen - to say yes to His magnificent plan for our lives. Our part is to trust Him and step out into His mission - to a probably "unknown" place. For some of us He could been asking us to consider for some time maybe years. But doubt and fear have stopped us ie no action.

Please know this no matter who we are, how old we are or what you have not done never mind you are not disqualified. For those who think they are old, God called Moses when he was 80 years old and Abraham 100 years old. Just know this we are all here as leaders i.e. to lead others on purpose and for a purpose. You might not know what purpose is yet (Moses didn't know till he was eighty) but that doesn't matter. What matters is that we are on God's mind and plan. Our God has His eye on us. Yes, it may catch us off guard, shaking up everything we think we know about our future. Yet when we say yes, we may suddenly find ourselves positioned to change the world around us! When we say yes to the possible, watch God do the impossible!

Lastly, just in case we hesitate and shrug to say yes let's recall the story of the 3 servants. The first two servants doubled their wealth when they risked it. Whereas if we are like the third servant who dared not risk it, even what he has will be taken away.

To conclude: that only when we n make Christ the cornerstone of our lives are we truly ready for mission and we will be ready to tell the Lord, *"Here I am! Send me!"*

Reflection Questions

1. What is God daring you to do?
2. Have you ever felt God dare you to something bigger that you felt unqualified to accomplish?
3. How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?
4. How can you know if your dreams line up with God's desire for your life?