

FEBRUARY 4, 2021
Thursday of the 4th Week in OT
Mark 6: 7-13

“WILLINGNESS TO SERVE THE LORD.”

There is a saying “No man is an island by John Donne, which expresses the idea that human beings do badly when isolated from others and need to be part of a community in order to thrive.”¹ People need other people to live, to help and be of help. We can not live alone, we need others even if we are strong, healthy, wealthy. We can not separate ourselves to others. Even in small task, other people may help us. Even Jesus Christ recognized the need of others to spread the gospel, the Kingdom of God. Yes, He is God, but He wanted His followers to be part of this mission, that’s why, we heard in the gospel today, “He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”² The mission to spread the gospel and to be of help to others were entrusted to the twelve and now to us. We are now chosen to be the missionaries for Christ. “St. Mark shows how early into his ministry Jesus sent out the twelve that he had chosen to share in his work. He sent them out to do what he has been doing, to preach the gospel and to heal the sick. Jesus understood that he needed the help of others to do the work he had been sent to do. Jesus still needs us today to do his work. We are to be his eyes, his ears, his hands, his feet and his voice, his presence wherever we are. He wants to work in and through us.”³ We have the role to play as one Body of Christ through our baptism. We are essential, necessary, and indispensable members and workers of the Church to make known the loving, merciful, and compassionate God. So, my brothers and sisters, let us do our part as a vital member of Christ’s Body, be a missionary of the Gospel by words and example. The Lord is now asking us to renew our commitment: Are you willing to be my disciples and do the mission? Are you willing to be My feet, hands, eyes, ears, and voice for others? Let us all be His disciples and commit ourselves to proclaim the gospel to our brothers and sisters, in and out of season.

¹ www.phrases.org.uk

² Mark 6: 7 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

³ www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie