

Sent

Now that I am a priest, everyone is wondering what was it like and how does it feel and I tell them: it feels great. Like something I've been longing, desiring for an extended period of time and now it has come to fulfillment. Was I nervous the day before? Nope. Did I sleep well? I slept amazing. How did I feel before the ordination? I felt so much peace like I was drinking from the oceans of grace straight out of heaven. With the help of your prayers and an extremely long discernment time, I was able to walk into that ordination with full confidence and peace.

I've been reflecting on the significance of the Feast of the Sacred Heart for my ordination. The readings were about how God himself would shepherd his people and how he would search out the lost sheep. Then it really struck me. I was one of those lost sheep: wandering, lost, not sure where to go, losing hope. But in that moment at the ordination, he was calling me to be no longer a lost sheep but now a shepherd who seeks after lost sheep. I had received my mission and now I was no longer wandering, I was sent.

This is what our Gospel emphasizes for you today. You are no longer wandering, you are sent. Our Lord in yesterday's reading talks about the need for laborers in the vineyard and he begins to fulfill that need by calling his twelve, giving them authority and calling them APOSTLES. What does the word apostle mean? It means one who is sent. To be an apostle is to be one who is sent.

While you and I are not called to be 'apostles' in the strict sense, we are called to be sent. I went hiking the other day with another friend and in some ways I could say I was sent, I had a mission, a goal to accomplish. It determines why I am there, where I am going, and how I am going to get there. Imagine if I was not 'sent', if I did not have a mission. I would be wandering, knowing that this mountain is important but not sure why or where to go.

I think a lot of Catholics are on the mountain of the New Jerusalem but they do not know why they are there or where they are going. In other words, they do not know that they have been sent, and for what. The word 'mass' means to be sent. The word 'mass' comes from the Latin at the end of the mass which says: *Ite, missa est*. Go, it has been sent; Go the Church has been sent! You have been sent!

So when you say you are going to mass, you are essentially saying I am going to be sent. After every mass you are sent! Go! Go seek the lost sheep.

To be sent implies that we know our mission. It implies that we need to receive our mission from God. So I believe our Lord is challenging us to ask ourselves today: I don't want to wander anymore, where do you want to send me? Will you allow yourself to be sent and allow the Lord to seek the lost sheep through you?