



Mass Parts 50/52: *Sent on a Mission*

Let us go back for a moment to the dismissal for Mass: "*Ite, missa est.*" "Go, you are sent."

As we leave the Mass, we are being sent on a mission. This mission is to build the Kingdom of God. We do this through our participation in the life of the Body of Christ. We get our strength for this mission from the Body of Christ in its totality. This totality at Mass is found in the Word proclaimed, the community gathered, and the Real Presence of the Eucharist. Our mission is supported and enhanced in the Word proclaimed through our study of Scripture and by following the plan of Jesus for our lives. Our mission continues within the community that has gathered at the Mass and the community outside our walls that has not yet come in. We are all part of the Body of Christ with Jesus as our head. We support each other throughout the highs and lows of our lives. Our strength also comes from the Eucharist which we have received. Because it truly is the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are transformed by it as we receive it. We can then become Jesus for the rest of the world as we travel life's path.

Why are we on a mission? The call of the Gospel is for ALL to come into the Kingdom, not just me. We become Jesus for other people, so they too can come to know Him, and then become Him in turn.

This mission is the source of the call to Missionary Discipleship. Every person in the pew is not just a spectator. We are all disciples. It is not just about being fed; it is about receiving our mission and going out to get other disciples. The twelve disciples gathered around Jesus and then spread his message to the world. Those already coming to Mass gather around Jesus and then spread his message to the world today as well.

We are not just fulfilling an obligation by going to Mass. We are not called to just sit for one hour each week. We are gaining our strength to continue our life's calling: to build the Kingdom of God.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Out on the Street