

INTRODUCTION

Last week we were reminded that we are nourished by Jesus in the Eucharist, to which we were united to learn from Him. What do we need to learn from Jesus?

The given words of Jesus this week from this guideline sheet will help us discover more of what we need to learn from Jesus our good shepherd; wherein this learning is concretely seen in the missionary heart of the life of Peter and Paul. These two people are one of the greatest Disciples of Christ. Why are they great? Because they humbly submit themselves to the Choice of God for their lives as "Apostles of Christ". They were great not because the world told them, not because they had the capacity and strength to follow Christ, but because of their faith in Jesus when He said, "You don't have the capacity but I will capacitate you". Peter and Paul are great because they tried to follow Christ in their simplest and humblest way, to the point of giving their lives through preaching the Word of God till death. Why were they able to give their lives as an apostle? Because of their grateful hearts in recognizing how God loves them. Then from that love, they were Chosen as Apostles even in the midst of their unworthiness. As Saint Paul said in **1 Corinthians 13:5**, "Love does not keep a record of wrongs." The realization of Peter and Paul of the love of God led them to the way in finding out that being an Apostle of Christ is to savor the life in union with Jesus our Savior.

This week, we are invited to fix our eyes on Jesus on how He chose Peter and Paul as His Apostles. His way of choosing them is the very same way he chose each one of us as Apostles through the Verbum Dei Missionary Family. Jesus keeps calling us, "Come follow me." Even continues to invite us when he said, "If today you hear my voice harden not your hearts."

Have a heart of flesh and be open in listening to the invitation of Christ to you this week when he said:

"Come with me." (Matthew 4:15) and "be united to me" (John 15) for I come to give life, life to its fullness (John 10:10)

MONDAY

"I call you to bring mercy"

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **(Acts 9: 3-6)**

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." **(Acts 9:15-16)**

"The Hallmark of the Christian life is not sacrifice, believe it or not, but it is MERCY." **(Fr. James Mctavish, FMVD)**

Reflection:

Are you convinced of the Choice of God that you are His Apostle?

Do you see why His love for you made Him choose you as His Apostle?

Are you grateful that He chose you?

Is your heart ready to say "Yes" as He says, "Come with me"?

TUESDAY

"I Choose You Because I Love You"

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" **(Luke 5:8)**

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh King of Egypt. **(Deuteronomy 7:6-8)**

Reflection:

Are you convinced of the merciful love of God to you?

Do you see the compassion of Christ in your life?

Why is He choosing you? Calling you?

Are you willing to give your life for Jesus as His Apostle?

WEDNESDAY

"Be with me for I have the words of eternal life"

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." **(John 6:66-69)**

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

(John 6:63)

Reflection:

Are you willing to remain in Jesus no matter what will happen?

Do you recognize Jesus in the way Peter recognized Him?

Do you value the words that give eternal life?

THURSDAY

"Remain United to Me" St. Thomas, Apostle

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

(2 Timothy 1:1-3)

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it

must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (*John 15:4-5*)

Union with Christ is the best source of energy, enthusiasm and joy in the Apostle. What is more, this familiar relationship of affectionate intimacy affords us the best themes; it impresses a particular kind of pedagogy on the Apostle, a sensitive and delicate task and awareness, in order to adapt and make Christ's Message accessible to all. (*Verbum Dei Constitutions #37*)

Reflection:

*Do you recognize the trust of Jesus in you to become His Apostle?
Are you convinced of His love for you?
How does Jesus attract you in order for you to be in love with Him?
Do you see the importance of your life being united with Jesus?
Do you understand that being united with Him is essential for having a missionary heart?*

FRIDAY

"Be with me, I need you"

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (*Matthew 4:18-19*)

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (*Acts 13: 2-3*)

No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. (*2 Timothy 2:4*)

Reflection:

*Do you see Apostleship as a great privilege?
Are you conscious that Jesus needs you in the Mission?
Are you willing to extend help as Jesus needs you in the mission?
Do you value the missionary life as a Verbum Dei disciple or as a disciple of Christ?
Are you open to learn from Peter and Paul on how to possess a missionary heart?*

SATURDAY

"Be a vital part of my Body the Church"

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. (*2 Timothy 1:6-8*)

No means or method will ever match the strength, conviction and vitality of the direct, personal and living Word of the Missionary convinced by and in live with Christ, truly humble, possessed by the Spirit and passionately driven by the glory of the Church. The intimate union of the Apostle with Christ will make him or her feel vitally connected to every brother and sister with bonds stronger than even those of flesh and blood. In the heart of the Church, in obedience to her, and with her, we will feel the fraternal pulse healthy or ill of all people without exception or discrimination whatsoever; with Christ and like Him, we will give our life for the same Church and for the faith of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. (*Verbum Dei Constitutions #51*)

Reflection:

*Are you willing to be a vital and healthy part of the body of Christ through the Mission?
Do you value the mission as a concrete way of following Christ?
How do you keep the gifts that God has given you to be alive and active?
Are you happy when you allow timidity and mediocrity overpower you? Why?
Are you aware that the Spirit fills you with power, love and self-control?*

SUNDAY READINGS

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalms: Psalm 145

Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

A family united to the mission of the Apostles: in Paul and Peter apostles of Christ.

June 30-July 6, 2014



Objective of the week:

To learn from Peter and Paul what a missionary heart is.