

It's Christ the King Sunday! I love the celebration and it unnerves me. On the assumption that we have ability and strength, Jesus makes it clear today that our lives must reflect his love for the needy. When Mother Teresa was asked by Fr. Tom Rosica how she manages to care like she does, she held up five gnarled fingers and said "FIVE WORDS – You did it to me".

Because our moral lives, infused with sacramental grace and sustained by prayer and good deeds, require constant nourishment, we come to the Eucharist in need of healing and strength. But do we not also come to Christ in the Eucharist and find ourselves challenged? Very often, it's the challenging Jesus that keeps people at a distance, simply because we prefer our comfort and complacency over his powerful provocation!

The Mission of the Church and our Sacramental Celebration of the Mass fires that mission of feeding the hungry, hydrating the thirsty, offering hospitality to the stranger, clothing the poor and visiting the sick and imprisoned. 'Mission' means everything Christ sent his Church, his disciples to do. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you" he says to his faithful ones (Jn. 20:21) this mission is also called 'evangelization' and it is a multifaceted work of God. It includes silent witness to Christ, proclamation and catechesis, conversion and Baptism, establishing new parishes and Dioceses, cultural transformation and the witness amongst people of other religions... Mission must also include the promotion of true human development, peace, justice and charity especially amongst the poor. It's a huge mandate that comes from the great commission..... Go into all the world and baptize.... Teach them everything.....

This requires the very presence of Christ without whom our efforts are limited to social work alone. Therefore every celebration of the Mass is first a proclamation of the WORD of GOD!

The Second part of the Mass is the 'representation' of the sacrifice of Christ himself. "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you... My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink... As the living Father sent me, and I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will also draw life from me." (Jn. 6:53,55,57)

This sacrament gives us Jesus himself and increases his life of grace within us; equipping us as branches on the vine of his life to bear fruit....

In the words of JP II "From the perpetuation of the sacrifice of the Cross and her communion with the Body of Christ in the Eucharist, the church draws her spiritual power needed to carry out her mission. The Eucharist thus appears as both the source and summit of all evangelization, since its goal is the communion of mankind with Christ and him with the Father and the Holy Spirit." (EE22) Pope Francis reminds us to bring the needy to the Eucharist: "because it is a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." EV 47

We are fed with Jesus in order to feed others with the love of Jesus. We are clothed with Christ in order to cloth others with compassion, we are welcomed by Jesus in order to welcome others with joy; we are visited by Jesus in order to visit Jesus in the sick and imprisoned.

Ite Missa Est really means GO, YOU ARE SENT TO LIVE AND SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED..... JESUS CHRIST.