

25th Wednesday of Ordinary Time. 9/22/2021

Apostles in mission

In our Gospel reading we hear about a new stage in the relationship between Jesus and the twelve. They have been accompanying Jesus as he preaches and heals in Galilee. They have seen how Jesus behaves and they have learned what he teaches. They have seen him transform lives, and they have experienced the transformation of their own lives. They feel close to him. Now it is time for the twelve to go out. They have been preparing. They have been observing. Now is the time for them to act: Go out and make known the good news of the Kingdom of God. This is not yet the final sending. That will happen after the resurrection. But now it is an initial practice run for what

will become part of their identity as missionaries and witnesses of Christ. God has chosen human instruments as the means to extend his Kingdom.

In their mission they will no longer feel the physical presence of their master next to them, but they will remain united with him. As they go, they are not advancing their personal cause, but they go on behalf of Christ. The word apostle means one who is sent out, an emissary or representative.

Jesus instructs them not to carry food or money, but to trust in the providence of God. He will take care of them.

In their work, it is not on their own strengths that they rely, but in the provident love of God.

Jesus warns them also that they will not be welcome in all places. But they need to go everywhere. The love of God has no bounds, but it respects human freedom.

Jesus continues his mission today through the Church, which is apostolic. Each of us members of the Church are also sent. This is now our task. Christ is close to us, and we have seen what his love can do in the lives of people. Let us ask for the intercession of the blessed apostles, to help us remain united with Christ and find the way to be bearers of the good news of his love in the daily circumstances of our lives.