

# *Sunday Families* by **FR. TONY**

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**Sunday Homily 05-17-2026**

It is nice to get out and go. If we have been cooped up in our house due to weather or illness, that time to get up off the couch and even just go sit in the lawn chair in the sun. Or get in the car and drive to the country without anywhere particular to go. Maybe even without stopping just turning on the radio louder than is recommended, putting the sunglasses on, the windows down and just driving. We enjoy the feel of the wind through our hair, the sun on our skin, and the sounds of the world around in our ears. To just go.

I bet that in these last weeks that experience of getting out and just going has taken a different meaning. With so many places not available for going to, nowhere in particular has become a popular destination. I know that some Sunday afternoons, I just get in my car and think about getting lost. With the days of GPS that is mostly impossible, but to get in the car and drive one way or the other without plans except to get out of the house. Sometimes I stop for a soda from the Sonic and turn on the music and the air conditioner and just go.

Every so often I get an update about an odd piece of human history. The one this last week had to do with the idea of dromomania or wanderlust. For about 20 years in France it was a recognizable psychological ailment. Exclusively afflicting men who would just up and leave, work, family, even deserting military enlistment, and start walking nowhere in particular. It was really a catchall diagnosis for those who didn't conform. With what we know today, they were men you suffered head trauma, or dementia, or were completely well and decided to leave one life for another.

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It is considered highly romantic for some, to have the ability to travel. To go to new places and see new things and have new experiences. We wouldn't diagnose those who love to travel as being ill. We live in a time that the ability to travel is really open to almost everyone who wants to. I met a French Canadian woman while walking who only works about 6-8 months a year, often as a farm hand picking vegetables and fruit, the rest of the year she buys an open ended plane ticket and backpacks all over the world. She picks up odd jobs here and there when she runs low on money, and as her bank drains, she charges a plane ticket home and starts all over again.

The celebration of the Mass ends with a command to "Go." A literal booting out the door. In translation we soften the Latin command, *Ite Missa Est*, "Get out the Mass is." Would be a fair literal translation. "Go the mass is ended." Is what we normally hear. It is truly a command that should remind us of today's Gospel, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

We know of the Resurrection so just like the disciples, we travel to meet Jesus, not in Galilee, but in the midst of the gathered community. And in that encounter with the risen Lord, he tells them to leave. He doesn't say to them, "Brothers, stay here with me." No he says, "Go into all the world, and as you go tell people of me, and when they believe, make them disciples too. Teach them all that you have learned, and Go, I will never leave you." This is not a call just for

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members of the Clergy, or Religious Communities, or Church Office Staff, or Ecclesial Lay Ministers. It is the command for all the baptized.

Although attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, it is clear he never said or wrote it, “Preach Christ always, when necessary use words.” It is a tired bromide that robs the Christian person of our God given need and responsibility to cry the Gospel, to preach the Good News, to tell our own stories as part of The Story of Salvation.

We are not called to be Christians that are only focused on our own encounter with the risen Christ ignoring the suffering of the Mystical Body of Christ on Earth. We are not called to fly over the rooftops, but to walk with the downtrodden and lonely. We are called to be the ones who spend time in perfecting our prayer, our supplication, and our relationship with Jesus Christ. If you desire to be a faithful Christian, a friend of Christ, and you practice, and serve, and lift up you will be one. If you desire to be a faithful Christian and are satisfied simply wait, you’ll be waiting all the way to misery.

I leave you with the words of St. Vincent de Paul, “So, our vocation is to go, not just to one parish, not just to one diocese, but all over the world; and to do what? To set people’s hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did. He came to set the world on fire in order to inflame it with His Love. What do we have to do to desire but that it may burn and consume everything...It’s true, then, that I’m sent not only to love God but to make Him loved. It’s not enough to love God, if my neighbor doesn’t love Him.” Let us see what a little love will do. I would guess that it will only change the entire world.