



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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Jesus sent the Twelve to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic." Lk 9:2-3

Jesus sent the Twelve, as they were, to proclaim the Good News. His invitation to us? Go forward as you are.

Go forward as we are? But we may be weighed down by our circumstances. We may be burdened by our sins. We are imperfect. Our lives are messy. At times, we may feel lost and alone. Our failures can overwhelm us. We feel ill-equipped for our journey: no stick nor sack nor food nor money. Worse still, we live in an increasingly isolated society. We live in our silos, away from our neighbors, unable to reach out to those who don't share our opinions, our politics or our beliefs. Our lives are limited by our reliance on social media. Because of fear of rejection or reprisal, we avoid contact with some family members, friends, and neighbors. We spend more time on our devices than we do in conversation with others. We bury our head in tweets and posts and podcasts, and we steadily become more and more detached from true human experiences. We must become engaged. We must put down our phones, turn off our computers, and listen to others. We must stop hiding in anonymity and back away from our screens. More importantly, we must speak our truth. If we encounter others respectfully, I believe we can be welcomed. If we take the time to walk in another's footsteps and acknowledge their experiences, we can meet in a place of mutuality and goodwill. This requires stepping out and up.

Jesus tells his disciples: *"Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there."*

We all have a circle of influence and Jesus sends each of us to those houses to share the Good News. Even in our fear and weakness, we can bring the light of Christ to others. Jesus assures us that we can carry on. No wisdom nor degree nor position nor authority is required. I would love to be able to expound on existentialism or the theoretical importance of justice or moral theology, but I'm seriously underqualified. And yet, I'm asked to bring Christ's love to the houses I enter. How does a simple man like me share the Good News? What do I have to give? Remember, Jesus sent the Twelve. He sends us, too. We are called to share his love. To be honest. Be joyful. And hopeful.

Pope Francis said, *"Without hope, we can walk, but we'll become cold, indifferent, self-absorbed, distant and isolated"*. Love, honesty, joyfulness, and hopefulness are necessary, or our actions only serve us. When I hear these words, I am reminded that as Christians, we are called to serve others. So, summoning the hope that Pope Francis speaks of, we can use whatever talents we possess for God's glory. Evangelization is a scary word for some of us. I know it is for me. It sounds too preachy, too presumptuous, too aggressive, or you know, too Evangelical.

We are called to be sent with neither stick nor sack nor food nor money. Instead, we carry honesty, joy, hope, and love.

Denis Wilhelm is a Partner in Mission with The Sisters of The Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri. To learn more about the Partners in Mission, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org