



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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Fr. Dennis Chriszt, C.P.P.S.

*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much,  
and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more. (Luke 12:48)*

*With great power comes great responsibility. (Uncle Ben in the first Spiderman movie)*

Last Wednesday, Jesus sent 72 disciples to proclaim, “the Kingdom of God is at hand,” and he gave them the power to heal. He sends them, telling them that they have everything they need. They don’t need to take anything with them, but the message he has given them.

Now that they’re back, he tells them a parable about being prepared, and Peter responds as if to say, “Are you talking about us?” Then Jesus repeats the parable in somewhat more detail. “Be ready,” he seems to say, “You never know when I’ll be back!” Then he drops the line we read above, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much...”

With wars in Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, with disfunction in our own government, we may be tempted to think that we can’t do anything about what’s going on in the world. We may believe that we don’t have what it takes to proclaim the Kingdom, to work for peace on earth, to heal the sick. If we were alone, that would be true. But we are not alone. The master of the house has given us everything we need. The Son of Man who will come has already come and is already here.

Unlike the 72 who were sent, we already know the whole story. We’ve already heard everything Jesus had to say. We’ve already witnessed both the crucifixion and the resurrection. Those disciples only knew part of the story, and Jesus told them that they had everything they needed. They had been entrusted with much, and managed to work wonders. We’ve been entrusted with even more. They had not yet eaten his Body or drank his Blood. They had not yet received the Holy Spirit. We’ve already done those things. The whole story, the whole mystery, the whole gift of redemption has been entrusted to us, “and still more will be demanded of” us.

In baptism, in confirmation, in the eucharist we share, great power has been entrusted to us, and with it great responsibility.

The Synod on Synodality is coming to an end in a few days. People from around the world have been listening together to the movement of the Spirit. The Synod participants have been sitting around tables, listening and talking to one another. They've been entrusted with a great responsibility, and over the next year, we'll be invited once again to be part of the storytelling and listening that will lead to the actual proposals that develop during next year's sessions. All of us will be invited once again to walk together so that the whole Church, each and every member, will have a part to play in proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Imagin for a second what the world would be like if we all believed that we've been sent, if we all believed that we have what we need to make a difference, if we all took responsibility for the great power God has put into our hands. Imagin what it would be like if "enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together." Imagin what it would be like "when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness." (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II – 1975 edition)

Today's gospel is not just about being ready for the master's return. It is not just about the hour when the Son of Man will come. It is also about today and what has been entrusted to us, the great responsibility that comes with the waters of baptism, the anointing with chrism, and the eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ.

We have been redeemed in the blood of Christ, and we are sent to proclaim its saving power to all the world.

**Fr. Dennis Chriszt, C.P.P.S. is currently recovering from some health issues. He has served in parish ministry, as formation and vocation director for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and has preached, conducted retreats and parish missions and written extensively about the Spirituality of the Precious Blood.**

*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](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)*