

We walk this earth for a purpose

It is no accident when or where we are born

There is an underlying purpose

This has always been the case

It will always be the case

SS says:

Before I formed in the womb

I knew you (Jer 1:5)

This is true of the ancient Israelites

It was true of Jesus Christ

It is true of the Apostles

It is true for us here today

Jesus Christ is central to that mission we all have

To make known the Good News

To proclaim the Gospel to all nations

In our first reading

Israel is told:

I will make you a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

This is given a new understanding in Christ

He came to proclaim the Good News

This is his mission

To be the light of salvation to the entire world

And to complete his mission

He left a Church

Because his mission extends to the end of time

It is a mission we enter into as Christians

As Catholics

We enter this mission through our baptism

Where we become adopted sons and daughters with The Son

His mission is our mission

To bring the Good News to the ends of the world

To proclaim the Gospel to all

Part of this mission is the Mass

The same Latin root – *misa*-is used for both

The Mass is not an appendix to the mission

It is the central, critical part of the mission

**But we cannot leave the mission between these four walls
where the Mass is celebrated**

We are called to take it with us

By the way we live our lives

And by proclaiming it to the world

Beginning with our families and friends

We proclaim it in our work places and in our schools

We proclaim it wherever we are

To friends and strangers alike

We do it as husbands and wives

As priests and religious

As children and single people in the world

Young and old alike

To become the witnesses we are called to be

In the words of Vatican II

To evangelize

We need two things

We need a connection to God through prayer

The Mass is key, but not enough

We need that daily connection prayer opens in our hearts

We need to speak with Jesus

We need to know him

Before we can talk about him

And this prayer has to lead to a lived testimony

With our lives and our words

To live the Gospel joy always

Even in the face of dark, turbulent times

All of this is wrapped in the mystery of Christ

At our baptism, we enter into his mission

Into the mystery of God who became man

We have our mission

But how that is played out in our personal, concrete lives is a journey

We know the destination –the Father

We know the way – Jesus Christ

But the journey is the Holy Spirit

Not knowing which way the wind is blowing

Where it comes from or where it will lead us

We discover it bit by bit

Being faithful

Striving to discover His will

Striving to live what we prayed in our Responsorial Psalm:

Here I am Lord; I come to do your will

We have been called and invited

We have our mission

Do we accept?