

**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?**