



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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“Jesus summoned his Twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean
spirits...and...go to the lost sheep of Israel”
(Mt 10:5-6)

In today's Gospel, you and I have been given three gifts.

Gift number one: being called by name to be among the disciples of Jesus.

Gift number two: "...he [Jesus] gave them authority..."

And gift number three: clear instructions to proclaim the good news
of the kingdom/kin-dom of God.

It is important to notice the order of this gift-giving.

First of all, call always precedes mission. We are called into relationship and intimacy with God from our birth and have value and dignity regardless of any other birth factor. All of us are equal in dignity and basic human rights. Having been called, the mission is entrusted to the disciples. This mission was entrusted to Jesus by his Father and has now been given *with authority* to the disciples. This authority allows them to act in the name of Jesus, to shape the world according to the values of the Kin-dom of God. It is particularly significant that each of the twelve are named. I suggest this indicates the fondness Jesus felt for them.

And what is the mission? To proclaim the good news of God's saving love and bringing the marginalized and suffering into full life within the community. Who are the marginalized? Anyone in most need of hearing God's love and experiencing God's healing.

And who is to hear this Good News? According to today's Gospel, the least people who would be open to hearing about Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the Jews. As a group, they have the most intense resistance to the Good News.

In addition to these inexplicable gifts, my reflection leads me to notice the genuineness of my Precious Blood Identity. I have been given a call to share the Precious Blood Spirituality. The call was not to Benedictine, Franciscan, or Dominican Spirituality but to Precious Blood. It is unique and personal.

This mission or *charism* of the Precious Blood calls for inclusion and to witness to God's tender face which creates a space for spreading reconciling love. The *authority* to speak and testify to this mission comes from Jesus.

Who is to hear and experience the power of the Blood of Christ? *Those who were once far away but have been brought near by the Blood of Christ* (Eph 2: 12-14) Anyone who feels left out of the circle of God's love or feels unworthy to be loved by God. The apostles were sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel with the message "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." What is my call from Jesus? To whom am I being sent with the message of God's unconditional love? Who is resisting the Good News that every life is worth the Blood of Christ?

By what name does God call you? What is your message to share today, and to whom?

Sr. Diana is celebrating her golden jubilee with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ this year. She has served the community in many capacities. Sr. Diana currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute. To learn more about the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, visit: adorers.org

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