

Celebrating the Experience of God's Love, Then and Now



**Theme: “The Mission – Sending
Harvest with a Challenge”**

**Recollection
March 2007**

Introduction

Jesus, as Son of God, is aware of being “sent” by the Abba. God the Father is the one sending his Son to the world. The Father sends also the Spirit, which makes herself present in the world in different occasions and in a variety of forms. Both, in the Old and the New testaments, the Holy Spirit is sent: she inspires the Prophets and impels them to carry out the project of God; the Spirit acts in the Creation of the world, in the virginal conception of Jesus. Jesus and the Father sent the Spirit after the Resurrection so that She will indwell in the world and in the hearts of the faithful. It is clear that the mission is part of the divine being. The Abba is the one sending and the Son and the Spirit are the Ones sent. Mission emerges from the very Womb of God the Father. Mission is expressed in his Son, who was incarnated through the Virgin Mary in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the One Sent (*o apostolos*). To be sent is an existential condition of the Son and the Spirit.

Opening Prayer:

Prayer:

Loving Father,

You have shown us Your love by sending Jesus Christ, Your only Son, to conquer death and wash away all our sins. You poured out Your Spirit upon the Church, empowering her to bring the good News of Your Fatherly love to all creation.

- Through a new outpouring of Your Holy Spirit, fill us with an urgent longing to proclaim Jesus Christ as the Perfect Revelation of Your Love.
- Let the attention of the whole world be focused on the Person and message of Jesus, our only Savior.

Dear Lord Jesus,

We need Your help more than ever. Recognizing our weakness, we are almost overwhelmed by the task of continuing Your great mission.

- Heal our wounds and free us in every way, so that we can follow You more perfectly and inspire others to do the same.
- Make us shine with Your holiness in ways that make us beacons of light for the world.
- Give us such a clear awareness of Your presence in our lives that we become even more vigilant in announcing Your salvation to everyone we meet.

Holy Spirit, Source of all Power,

We want to respond generously to the call and challenge of our times in order to bring about the “new springtime” being promised to the Church.

- Take away any timidity, laziness or apathy, and gift us with courage, zeal and love.
- Move us to undertake heroic efforts in the costly but delightful task of declaring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the farthest ends of the earth.

Glorious Trinity,

You have entrusted to every member of the Church the “supreme duty to proclaim Christ.” In order to accomplish this task, we need to depend totally upon You.

- Help us to discern the exact role that You want us to play in the Church’s great task of evangelization.
- Help us to labor with a spirit of prayer, obedience and unwavering fervor for the realization of Your eternal plan of salvation.

First Prayer Period: “Missio Creationis”

All the actions of God “ad extra” are, then, missionary actions. Creation is the first missionary act of God. The Creator Abba acts through his *Logos*, the Word and through his Holy *Ruah*, the Spirit. Creation is realized in Christ Jesus and through the force of the Spirit.

The “mission creationis” is carried out by all human beings forming families, working, and being committed to the development of society and the world. It is a prophecy of incarnation, of proclamation of the goodness of everything created.

Scripture Text Genesis: 1:26-28, 31a

Reflection Questions:

1. How is God calling me to share in His “Missio Creationis?”
2. How do I proclaim in my life the goodness of everything created by God?

Second Prayer Period: “Missio Redemptoris”

After his Baptism at the Jordan, Jesus initiated a new stage in his mission. Jesus concentrated all his energies and skills in the proclamation of the Reign of God.

Jesus was always moved by the perspective of the Kingdom of God. His mission had several aspects: the proclamation of the Kingdom, the signs of the Kingdom (miracles, exorcisms, care for every person), and passion and death.

The “missio redemptoris” is carried out and expressed by all those persons committed to the liberation of the human being from any kind of oppression in the political, psychological, spiritual or biological realm. It is the mission of those who struggle against corruption, injustice, in favor of the sacredness of creation, justice and peace. The salvific mission of the Church is also inserted here and it is expressed in the celebration of the sacraments, in the proclamation of the Word, in missionary activity.

Scripture Texts: Lk 4:18-19; 9:1-6, 10:1-12; 10:17-20

Reflections Questions:

1. How have you as an RVM shared in the mission of Christ?
2. What has been your greatest challenge as a missionary?
3. Where have you experienced the joy of being sent?

Third Prayer Period: “Missio Spiritus Sancti”

Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was sent by the Abba and the Son after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Spirit is the missionary of the Father and of the Son. She teaches everything; she is the interior Master, the one who makes possible all the words of God. She is the Achiever. The Spirit always acts in an invisible way. All the charisms, so abundantly poured out upon us, are her manifestations, her epiphany. She acts through this amazing variety of charisms and charismatic persons; she acts through all the persons graced with her inspiration and gifts.

The “missio Spiritus Sancti” is incarnated in each one of the charismatic tasks which the different groups and persons carry out in the world and in the Church. In them is manifested the creativity of the Spirit and how she carries out all realities towards fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.

Especially sensitive to this kind of mission are the religious communities which are able to discover new missionary challenges day after day and are ready to respond to them.

Scripture Texts: 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Mt.28:19; Mk.16:15

Reflection Questions:

1. How have you allowed the Holy Spirit to move and energize you to become authentic co-partners of the mission of God?
2. What particular gift have you received and shared in the ministry you are presently assigned?

Closing Prayer:

Mary, Star of evangelization,

As faithful disciples of your dearest Son, we want to become utterly available as heralds of the Gospel.

Pray for us that we might accomplish great things for the glory of God, and for the good of all beloved children on earth.

Pray for us sinners that we might become evangelizing saints of God, ever ready to speak the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

References:

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