

The Mission of Peace

One of the things we pray and work for always in our lives is peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, homes, places of work, community, and world. Once we have peace, life becomes more livable and enjoyable. Lack of peace in our different life situations affects what we do. Today's readings invite us to reflect deeply on peace, especially the invitation to know that each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus is sending us on a mission of peace.

In the first reading, Isaiah, the prophet of hope and promises, gives this message of hope and peace to his people after the torture of exile. We all know this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ, whom the prophet Isaiah called the "the prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:5). Jesus came, taught peace, and lived out peace. (Lk. 2:14, Mt 5:9, Jn 14: 27, Mtt. 10). Today in the gospel, he sends out the 72 with different instructions, especially to be agents of peace. "Into whatever house you enter, first say, Peace to this household.'

In the Eucharist, Jesus empowers and sends us to continue the mission of peace in different life situations we find ourselves. We pray in the Mass after the Lord's Prayer for him to grant us peace in our day. That is continual peace. Only when we have this peace can we begin to share that with other people. We cannot give what we don't have. Once we allow different things that happen in our lives to affect and deny us the peace of heart we supposed to have, it will undoubtedly affect others around us.

To be a peacemaker means imbibing the virtues of humility, patience, forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding. We cannot have them if we don't work for them, especially praying for ourselves to have them. We pray as St. Paul prayed in the 2nd reading for the Spirit of God to be with us all so that we become agents of peace. Amen