

Homily - Oct 28, 2020

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Every time we celebrate one of the apostles, we celebrate our God who through baptism has entrusted us to not just be disciples—followers of Jesus, but apostles—the ones sent to proclaim a special message. Sometimes we don't realize HOW SPECIAL the message is that we are commissioned to share with others near and far. So we confidently call upon our compassionate God, Lord have mercy.

I am struck this morning at how appropriate and blessed the message is that St. Paul offers us on this feast of apostles, and how important that message is for us to proclaim these days.

St. Paul says, "You are no longer strangers, sojourners...but fellow citizens with the holy ones." How prophetic that message is at a time when we are suffering from rhetoric and attitudes that prompt us to consider certain people and groups as strangers and even enemies, as our political parties have become one against the other. Sojourners might be seen as groups of refugees or people floundering on the way. But St. Paul says we are no longer supposed to be that either. Unfortunately, in our present moment we are categorizing most sojourners to be dangerous and therefore not welcome to live among us.

No wonder that we are presently suffering from pandemic and political fatigue. This situation makes it even more important for us to hold on to the blessed message St. Paul offered us. During this time of so many challenges on so many fronts, it is super necessary for us to do as the apostles must have done—perceived Jesus as the "capstone" of their life and "capstone" of the community they were trying to build. With Jesus as their capstone, they felt called to not just assemble some sort of group, but to form that group in such a way it would be "a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Wow! How wonderful is that!

As apostles of this 21st century, at a time of health, political, religious and social turmoil, we are called to focus on Jesus as our "capstone" or "keystone" in order to create a world that is a "dwelling place of God"—a dwelling place full of the Spirit of love. The more Jesus' agenda and mission becomes ours, the more we will be capable of creating health, political, religious and social dwelling places filled with God's Spirit of love, where we will no longer be strangers and eternal refugee-sojourners, but rather cooperative fellow citizens and fellow apostles full of conviction and intention for what is best in our global dwelling place.