

Our Mission in the Holy Spirit

Whenever we engage in the work of evangelization and mission, it is very easy to focus on programs and practical steps for success, but we often risk losing sight of what is most important – holiness and prayer. Our missionary efforts will accomplish nothing unless we are rooted in prayer, and unless we strive for holiness. This can be extremely difficult to remember in moments of despair and disappointment, when it seems that our labors are not bearing much fruit. But we are called to *“seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.”* (Matthew 6:33). Saint Teresa of Calcutta once famously remarked that God has not called us to be successful, but to be faithful. If we have faith *“as a grain of mustard seed”* (Luke 17:6), we would learn to see the hand of God working in all things, because *“we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him”* (Romans 8:28).

The work of evangelization and mission calls for heroic faith, hope, and love, but these are only possible because they were first born of an encounter with the divine. Otherwise, what we consider to be evangelization and mission would merely be our own human efforts. We cannot truly evangelize unless we have first been impelled to do so by the Holy Spirit. As Saint Paul wrote, *“no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 12:3).” In another place, he wrote that *“necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!”* (1 Corinthians 9:16). It was only when the Holy Spirit drove the disciples and apostles to proclaim the Good News of the Risen Christ, that they were able to *“catch the entire world.”* The same shall be true of us. We should be so transformed by the Holy Spirit that we feel absolutely compelled to proclaim to the entire world the good news of what has been worked in us.

Therefore, we should ask ourselves the following questions:

- **Is the descent of the Holy Spirit an event that happened only once, or is it something that should happen repeatedly among all Christians?**
- **Shouldn't the marvels of the Holy Spirit be visible among Christians, so that the entire world might know that “the Lord is God and has appeared to us”?**
- **Aren't we supposed to be so changed by our experience of the Lord's presence, that we are compelled from within to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world?**
- **Do we have faith that the power of the Holy Spirit can ignite a renewal within our own communities?**
- **Do we constantly invoke the power and descent of the Holy Spirit in our lives and among our families and communities?**