

Pentecost 2018

As the Father has sent me – so I send you! Remember the first time that you realized that you were a representative of your family? At school – the grocery store on your own – someone would ask you, “Are you Bill & Mary’s kid?” It’s then that we begin realize that we carry with us throughout our whole lives the family that went before us. Whether we want to or not we’ll always be Bill & Mary’s kid, or grandkid, or niece or nephew. It’s a powerful truth that we must embrace – for it’s a truth that we walk with always.

As the Father has sent me – so I send you! In High School we’re told by a coach or a teacher in getting ready for a competition of some kind – to be on our best behavior because our actions would reflect on the whole school. I was Bishop Ward High School when I was out in public at public events. What I did was watched by others – and whether I liked it or not my behavior mattered. It’s a powerful truth that we must embrace – for it’s a truth that we walk with always.

As the Father has sent me – so I send you! In your first job – you meet with a client or a customer – and it isn’t long before you realize that in these people’s eyes you represent the whole company – no matter how big or small. The entire corporation is being judged by your actions and your temperament – and whether we like it or not it’s the way of the world. It’s a powerful truth that we must embrace – for it’s a truth that we walk with always.

As the Father has sent me – so I send you! These are the words that Jesus speaks to his disciples – that group of cowering men and women who are seemingly fearful of everything at the moment. Jesus comes to them and offers them his peace and then says, “*As the Father has sent me – so I send you!*” He looks straight into their eyes and tells them that wherever they go and whatever

they do they’re representatives of God and of the faith they profess.

It’s on the backs of these men and women that our Catholic Christian faith was carried through both prosperous and difficult times. Every time that they wanted to give up – every time they thought that they didn’t have enough love, compassion, courage or hope – they remembered the truth that they had to embrace – and the words that walked with them always.

And so for centuries – for more than 2000 years – Jesus has spoken these words to cowering groups of men and women who think that they’re not up to the task. And he looks at each of us today and says “*As the Father has sent me – so I send you!*” And whether we like it or not – everything that we do reflects on Jesus and on the faith that we embrace.

Our actions matter – our example is placed before others everywhere that we go. Our love and our compassion – our understanding and our forgiveness – our fortitude and our courage is what reflects Jesus to all people that we meet – and everywhere we go. This is the powerful truth that we embrace each year on the Feast of Pentecost – for it’s the Holy Spirit guiding us in our walk through this life.

Today we listen carefully to the call of Christ to go forth in his name – we breathe the Holy Spirit that walks with us as we answer this call – we hold close to the faith that has been given us – and pray that we might hand it on as carefully and gracefully as it has been handed to us.