



“Traveling light”

God's kingdom is often compared to a "harvest" in the Scriptures. The seventy-two are Jesus' forerunners. Luke tells us that they are being sent "to every town and place he intended to visit." They are his ambassadors. The first words they are to speak are words of peace: "Peace to this household." The Gospel today tells us that the seventy-two returned "rejoicing" - that their mission was successful.

A harvest just doesn't happen - it requires work. "Church" doesn't just happen... it doesn't just pop up out of ground. All of the different components which make up our Church require

work, support, planning, tender care, patience - and yes, honest dialog.

The church of Jesus Christ must be a community of responsible leadership and commitments - shared leadership between clergy and laity, and shared commitment to the work of the harvest. If we to witness to the Good News of Christ, we must do so because together we are the Church.

We need to cooperate and to respond - and we must not be afraid to speak out whenever anyone gives evidence of attitudes that do not reflect the spirit of Jesus. That doesn't mean grumbling and complaining in private, but rather to speak sincerely and constructively. It means taking ownership of the Gospel. It means remembering that as baptized and sacramental people we are empowered to be alive in the Holy Spirit and to transform the world.

Traveling light means speaking the word of peace - not of violence; it means leaving behind all the excess baggage of our own petty prejudices and preferences; it means living out the words we speak with sincerity and brutal honesty. It is not enough for us, as human beings, just to live. We also must give words to what we are living.

But just speaking words of peace is not enough... talking about "love" or "praying for peace" is not enough. We must transform those words into action. And when we do that we become healthy laborers in the harvest.



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