

(Food for thought)

Gospel: Mt 4: 12-23.



“Darkness Dispelled”

The proclaiming, listening and exploring of Scripture has been, since the time of Jesus, the ministry and work of disciples throughout the world. This is the "Good News" that has echoed down the centuries, catching the imagination, generating inspiration and courage, and inviting commitment. The gentle voice of Jesus and his people proclaiming peace, forgiveness and love cannot and will not be silenced. But still, as we move through a world of turmoil and uncertainty, we cannot escape the many painful questions that haunt so many hearts and minds.

We are called to be disciples; we are all called to minister and proclaim God's word to the nonbeliever (to evangelize) and to share that word with our fellow believers (to catechize). How we

respond to His call is the measure by which the Good News of Salvation is spread throughout our world.

The "Good News" is that God is with us in the darkness; He stays with us, patiently and persistently. There is light in the darkness. This light has not left us when darkness has threatened to overwhelm us. It guides our lives so that we can be a witness, in word and deed, to what we believe for those who are in the darkness of loneliness and guilt, indifference, aggression intolerance and all the other signs of death.

Maybe we're too busy, too preoccupied to recognize the power and the beauty of the Holy Spirit abiding in us. But if we're not conscious of that incredible gift, if we don't celebrate the presence of the Spirit every day - even in the midst of the darkness - and make His power and goodness known in our speech, our attitudes and our decisions, then no one will be able to recognize the Good News that we are sent to proclaim in His name.

Our role as disciples is to seek and find His goodness, His truth, and His love in all persons, and to connect with them eagerly. We need to reevaluate and understand our role as church - as intended by Jesus - to be that of herald, proclaimer, model and catalyst. Constant dialogue and interaction must be the hallmarks of the Christian community, bringing about continual change and transformation.

The Lord sends us an urgent invitation to participate in important work. The Kingdom is at hand - and this is "Good News."

