

The Great Commissioning

What are the things that make this commissioning so great?

Let's see: The message of this commissioning is a message that can change a person's life throughout eternity. That is one long time! But it also starts now. It contains a special invitation to PARTICIPATE as a partner with Jesus and not just watch on the sidelines.

It involves a passing of God's grace onto the evangelized through the messenger. All involved are blessed by the transaction. It **brings God's JOY** which is an outward sign that sends a message of its own. We know that there were many **conversions** in the early church because its members loved one another.

Yet we see how the Apostles doubted even though they worshipped. Maybe though they saw miracles being performed, they didn't have their own miracle that worked in their hearts. Hearing someone's stories is good it might not be enough to change a heart. **We must have our own story** and our own very personal relationship with Christ that we depend on to share with others.

The grace of the Holy Spirit enables us to forgive and love. This type of love produces tangible fruit as we serve God. It produces healthy conversations of God's love for us and how He has promised to be close to us and be our guide in all things. We will rejoice with an everlasting **joy that no one can take from us**.

The Holy Spirit also helps us understand the **value of following God's commands**. God's commands are a sign that **He cares** for us and provides a roadmap to true happiness for those who follow the map.

Our new life in Christ also provides a **hope** for us when tough times arrive. This pandemic has caused much anxiety from loss of health and jobs that are needed to provide basic necessities of living. So people accept a helping hand from people of their parish, which benefits both the donors and recipients. Our hope lies in the hearts of God's children who have learned to **pass hope on**.

Let us pray that we will all **see the joy and hope** that comes from true evangelization from God's children, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to **the paths of sharing** the wonderful gifts that God has bestowed on those who follow His commands.

May we be contributors to the life of the Body of Christ,

Homily from Deacon Tony

May 24th, 2020

Feast of the Ascension