

Remain Episcopal Event, Diocese of San Joaquin  
2/10/07  
Luke 10: 1-9

Homily:

*Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

What is the mission of the Church and who is to do it?

If we are to take our cue from the reading of Luke's Gospel this morning, the only one of the Gospels that commissions a larger group of followers so directly, then we had better get busy.

The Gospel leaves no question that the followers of Jesus are the ones commissioned to do this work. Who are the followers of Jesus? If you are baptized and marked as Christ's own forever, take a deep breath, because Luke's Gospel is speaking to us.

We are the followers of Jesus gathered, and we are the ones who are called to prepare the way for Christ Jesus and we are the ones commissioned just as Jesus commissioned his followers in the Gospel of Luke that we just heard. Preparing the way for Christ Jesus is up to us.

We are commissioned by our baptism. And I say to you, "look out" this is not easy work.

This work, this mission, is not left to the professionals. It is not the sole property of bishops and clergy, it belongs to all of us. We are all commissioned by our baptism and it is in that common call and response that we find our strength.

Have no doubt about it, doing the work of Jesus Christ in the world is the most important thing we will do in our lives. Promises made and promises kept will be the mark of our commitment to Jesus.

The metaphor of the wolf and the lamb warns us that we will face opposition in responding to the call of Jesus and that it is not an

easy job we are called to do. It can be dangerous and frightening.

But We know that, don't we?. We have seen struggle and ultimate joy in the lives of other faithful people upon whose shoulders we stand. Our mothers and fathers and grandparents and friends and heroes, our children. We have experienced the pain and the fear and the ultimate joy ourselves. By the witness of our loved ones and other faithful colleagues we are told over and over again, "it is not easy to follow Jesus" but do it anyway. "It is not easy to prepare the way for Jesus" but do it anyway. It is not easy - But do not be dissuaded from the reconciling mission of Christ Jesus in this world. Be not dissuaded, do it anyway.

Carry no purse, no bag no sandals – enter a house and make your greeting with peace –if it is received that is good, if not, it will return to you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick – help whoever you find and remind all that God is near.

We will keep our promises, because we love Jesus and we are love Him together – as Jesus commissioned his followers and sent them out two by two – not alone, together, with each other to do the work of Jesus. We go out, together – to prepare the way for Jesus.

Who is to do it? We are. Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

Amen