



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



## 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A

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*"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the Father who sent me." Matt 10:40*

In this week's Gospel, we hear the concluding words of Jesus' great missionary discourse. He instructs the apostles on the sacrifices involved in being missionaries and prophets, the priorities that must be embraced and the selflessness that is an imitation of the total self-gift Jesus becomes for the world. In our second reading from Romans, Saint Paul, the great missionary apostle, tells us, *"We who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death ...so that we too might rise and live in newness of life."*

Missionary disciples throughout history have been given the wisdom of this hard reality not as suffering but as a sweetness of knowing they follow Jesus and his mercy. The word *"martyr"* originally derived from the *"Greek word martus* signifying a witness who testifies to a fact of which he has knowledge from personal observation. As described in the catechism paragraph 2473: *"Martyrdom ...means bearing witness to the faith even unto death. The martyr bears witness to Christ who died and rose, to whom he is united by charity. He bears witness to the truth of the faith and of Christian doctrine."*

The second paragraph has a great deal to say about those who receive the good news from the missionaries charged with proclaiming it. The Church has always held its missionaries in high esteem. There is something inherently noble about a life dedicated entirely to preaching the good news where it has not been heard before. Such dedicated people deserve all the hospitality we can muster.

But the same nobility extends to us as well. The baptism we have received is itself a *"great commissioning."* *Co-mission* means to join our life with the mission of Christ and His Church in such a way that our faith makes us a welcome sight as we shine the Light of Christ in our community.

This week reflect on the closing verse, much loved among devout Christians. Reflect on the dignity and profound implications of even the smallest act of generous love:

*"Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink  
amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his apostles:

*"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me,  
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;  
and whoever does not take up his cross  
and follow after me is not worthy of me.  
Whoever finds his life will lose it,  
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

*"Whoever receives you receives me,  
and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.  
Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet  
will receive a prophet's reward,  
and whoever receives a righteous man  
because he is a righteous man  
will receive a righteous man's reward.  
And whoever gives only a cup of cold water  
to one of these little ones to drink  
because the little one is a disciple—  
amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."*

***The Gospel of the Lord***

