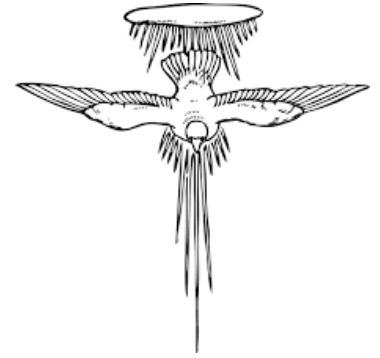


# Living the Mission



God's ultimate plan is to unite all people to become one people of God, one body of Christ, one temple of the Holy Spirit with love that never ends. So, in the fullness of time God sent his Son to be redeemer and savior of the world. Jesus became man so we might know God's love for us. This is His mission.

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it." (Jn14:16-17) So, the Holy Spirit is actually "sent" to us. He is actually sent on a mission and that mission is the SAME mission as Christ. By the way, the word Apostle means "one who is sent."

*The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 737) The mission of the Church is the SAME MISSION as Christ and the Holy Spirit. The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love. (CCC 850)*

The Church is sent to:

- Announce
- Bear Witness
- Make Present
- And Spread the Mystery of the Communion of the Holy Trinity.

The Church is all the people of God, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. This is US! "Every person, through these gifts given to him (referring to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit) is at once a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself." (CCC 913) *Lumen Gentium* states "it is the people's responsibility for the renewal and building up of the Church." It is imperative on US to spread the gift of the Gospel! We are meant to be sent!

Councils of Catholic Women work toward that goal by being witnesses. We witness Christ not only by fundraising and writing checks for worthy causes; but we also witness Christ to each other, and to the Community, through our personal interactions.

But here is the issue at hand – We currently live in a world of lonely, broken, abandoned people. People with no hope. We no longer live in a culture where Christianity is the common practice. A lot of people have not heard or have not internalized the love God has for them – personally and intimately. If they do believe God exists, many believe in an impersonal God who got the top spinning and is just sitting back watching until the end.

What they so desperately need is God's love, and we are the ones who need to bring that love to them.



---

*Fr Joe saw thousands of people suffering from malnutrition. He often told the story of meeting a young boy by his house. It was lunchtime and the little boy was outside playing soccer by himself. Father Joe asked him why he didn't go home to eat lunch. He responded, "It's not my day to eat."*

---

When Father Joe Walijewski, a priest from our diocese, went to Peru after a devastating earthquake, he told the bishop he wanted to stay longer because "the people, they have no hope." Father Joe didn't become a leader of faith in the community doing great things all by himself, but by making a pot of soup to give out and accepting the help of others to do so. Eventually he had several soup kitchens running. Many are still operating today. He met people on the streets and talked to them, always in his faulty Spanish, and with a smile on his face. He evangelized the poor by telling the stories and showing love. He would proclaim Mass in an open-air vacant lot, still used by our priests.

He is our example of leadership and service. He built relationships personally, with face-to-face conversation. He built relationships of trust and mutual respect. His actions matched Gospel values. His actions spoke louder than words.

A schoolteacher once said to the parents "when we see them (the students) we see you (parents). When people saw Father Joe, they saw Jesus.

When the community sees us, the Councils of Catholic Women, they should see Jesus through our love in action.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was leaving Bavaria to become the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he told his diocese:

---

*"Let us dare to live like Jesus Christ. Let us have the courage to live the faith. Don't be talked into calling that old-fashioned or out-of-date! What is out-of-date and a failure is a materialistic lifestyle, all attempts to live a life without God. But Christ is not just yesterday and today, He is also tomorrow, because eternity belongs to Him."*

---

Paraphrasing Pope Paul VI, *modern man does not listen to teachers, those who only talk, but they do listen to witnesses.* In fact, we are sent to be witnesses at the close of every Mass.

*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!*

Let us all live as missionaries of love.

*Lorraine Riedl*

Leadership Commission  
Service Commission

To learn more about Father Joseph Walijewski, and his cause for canonization, see [Father Joe's Legacy Guild](#).

To learn about Project Milk, a joint project to support Wisconsin dairy farmers and Casa Hogar orphanage, see [About Project Milk](#) on the [Casa Hogar](#) website.