

Pope Francis on "Mission"

Pope Francis' Homily at Mass for Canonization of Father J. Serra

Washington, D.C. - September 23, 2015

Jesus said:

Go out and tell the good news to everyone.

Go out and in my name embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be.

Go out to the highways and byways, go out to tell the good news fearlessly, without prejudice, without superiority, without condescension, to all those who have lost the joy of living.

Go out to proclaim the merciful embrace of the Father.

Go out to those who are burdened by pain and failure, who feel that their lives are empty, and proclaim the folly of a loving Father who wants to anoint them with the oil of hope, the oil of salvation.

Go out to proclaim the good news that error, deceitful illusions and falsehoods do not have the last word in a person's life.

Go out with the ointment which soothes wounds and heals hearts.

Jesus sends his disciples out to all.

To every people. We too were part of all those people of two thousand years ago. Jesus did not provide a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving his message, his presence. Instead, he always embraced life as he saw it. In faces of pain, hunger, sickness and sin. In faces of wounds, of thirst, of weariness, doubt and pity. Far from expecting a pretty life, smartly-dressed and neatly groomed, he embraced life as he found it. It made no difference whether it was dirty, unkempt, broken.