



SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER

DATE: October 14, 2018 (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

THEME: Transmitting the Faith to the Ends of the Earth

READINGS: Ws 7:7-11 / Ps 90:12-13, 14-15 / Heb 4:12-13 / Mk 10:17-30

REFLECTION BY: Joseph Lorbeth L. Vivo

Transmitting the Faith to the Ends of the Earth

Joseph Lorbeth I. Vivo, SDB

Mission gives meaning to our life. What could be your mission?

Jessa is a young person who is very active in youth ministry. For a time, she was very visible in organizing national events for young people. For her zeal in youth ministry, she was asked to assume one of the key responsibilities in the whole youth movement. She willingly delivered.

One day, the priest in-charge expressed to her an invitation to the mission in Papua New Guinea, particularly to help in the organization of its youth ministry. She responded: “Father, it is not easy to say ‘Yes,’ but I do not want to say ‘No.’ Can you give me time to reflect and consult God about it?” And, she seriously thought about it.

After some days, the priest followed her up: “So, what came out in your discernment?” She answered, “Father, I have consulted everyone in the family and some friends in the ministry. I have prayed much. I spent a long time reflecting on the will of God. And, I realized that deep inside me there is this desire to do something greater for God because I love Him, and providentially, this ‘greater’ seems to be the call to mission. And I couldn’t think of anything bigger than that. So, I have made a decision to work for the youth of Papua New Guinea. I will go.”

Our Baptismal Call. When we were baptized, we became children of God and members of His family which is the Church. The Church received



from Christ the mission to proclaim the Good News. Hence, each one of us as a member of the Church is given the gift to fulfill the mission.

Jessa knew that it was not her choice to be born in this world, but she realized that her life prompts her to make sense of it. She found happiness in doing youth ministry; she loved God in the ministry. And, after a sincere discernment, she chose to respond to the invitation and fulfill it with unfamiliar people to the “ends of the earth.”

Living Mission. Today, we celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Sunday. The indigenous people are either those who have not known Christ yet or those for whom the Church is not strong enough to proclaim the Gospel in a fully inculturated way (cf. RM 33). The mission of evangelizing them is to make them see the presence of the Lord journeying with them all along, leading them to holiness and salvation.

To them, we need people like Jessa (young as she is) who are eager to preach Christ both with their words and witness of life. But, let us remember that the motivation in fulfilling the mission is love for Christ above anything else especially riches (cf. today’s Gospel). With Christ as our greatest value, we will know our mission. With Christ as our wisdom (cf. First Reading), we will be guided in fulfilling our life-giving mission—even to the ends of the earth.



Father Joseph Lorbeth L. Vivo, SDB, is a member of the Congregation of the Society of Don Bosco of the Salesian Philippine North Province and is currently the Head of the Salesian Commission on Youth Ministry.

“If God accepts the sacrifice of my life, may my death be for the freedom of my people. A bishop will die, but the Church of God, which is the people, will never perish. I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will rise again in the people of El Salvador.”

Oscar Romero

