

Bulletin Reflection 2021.07.11. Year B1. Week 15. Ordinary Time.

Take Nothing

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses...” This Sunday's Gospel again reminds us that all we have comes from God (at least the good things). So following the Lord's instruction, the disciples took basically nothing with them. And for their trust and obedience, the Lord provided them the power to preach, cast out devils, and heal the sick.

Had these disciples ignored Jesus and taken bread, haversack, money, extra tunic, etc, none of these ‘necessities’ would have contributed to the success of their mission - e.g. I can't imagine how one could cast out satan with bread rolls. They had no intricate plan or strategy, no multi-million dollar budget, and no fancy public events. All they had was faith in Christ, and that was all they needed in the end.

When our ‘necessities’ are taken away, it's easy to feel empty-handed, helpless, dejected and unmotivated. This has certainly been our experience of the pandemic thus far. But even tragedy can teach us a lesson if we are willing to learn - it may prompt us to reorder our priorities and reassess what we REALLY need in life. It's not the extras we ordinarily enjoy and take for granted (no, not even toilet paper). For as the Gospel shows, even if all these are gone, we will be fine, as long as Jesus is with us.