

Wednesday of the 14th Week of Ordinary Time

Homily of Bishop John Barres

St. Agnes Cathedral

July 8, 2020

The Tenth Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, verses 1-7, shows us the calling and sending forth of the 12 Apostles.

In his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, Fr. Leiva Merikakis writes: “The text is emphatic in saying that it was these twelve who were sent out, and no others. The mission conferred, the movement outward, is in direct function to the call by Jesus to intimacy with his own person. The apostles go forth to men only as bearers of a precious personal call to and by Jesus. In this sense, it is Jesus himself they bear: the whole determining cause of their mission is their relationship to Jesus. They are sent only as men who have been called. The call permanently indwells the mission, and it is only this that gives the mission its effective power and authority.”

It makes sense this morning for us to review and pray section 857 of *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which describes why the Catholic Church is “apostolic”:

“The Church is apostolic because she is founded on the apostles in three ways:

--she was and remains built on “the foundation of the Apostles,” the witnesses chosen and sent on mission by Christ himself;

--with the help of the Spirit Dwelling in her, the Church keeps and hands on the teaching, the “good deposit,” the salutary words she has heard from the apostles;

--she continues to be taught, sanctified, and guided by the apostles until Christ’s return, through their successors in pastoral office: the college of bishops, assisted by priests, in union with the successor of Peter, the Church’s supreme pastor.”

I invite you later today to go back to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and review section 857. Use the Catechism frequently to enrich your Catholic Faith and your spiritual life.

There is a beautiful prayer grounded in the psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours that I often go back to and pray. It reads: “Father, as you made springs in valleys to form streams between mountains, so you made living streams of grace flow from the apostles that their teaching may bring salvation to all nations.”

We ask the intercession of the Apostles today that we ourselves can be truly apostolic missionaries and evangelizers. We pray for all Bishops, all successors of the Apostles around the world, today. In a special way, we pray for the Successor of Peter, our Holy Father Pope Francis.