

Core Value: Agency

This Easter Season, I enjoyed watching the series *The Chosen*. One aspect of this life of Christ drama that has touched me is the depiction of the calling of the disciples. Here, the simple “call” words were **not** stated as a directive, as I have always heard them in my mind (Come! Follow me!) but as an invitation (Come... follow me...). Each disciple was selected not just to serve a purpose or task for Jesus, but to be part of a community of followers who, in turn, would contribute to His mission in their own way.

As baptized children of God, answering our vocational call through ecclesial ministry, we sometimes forget this passage in 1Peter:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1Pt 2:9, NRSV)

We forget that we, too, are not told-chosen to follow Christ, but are invited-chosen. And, like the disciples at Pentecost, we have been filled with the Holy Spirit who manifests in us and stirs us to action; to “*proclaim the mighty acts.*”

Matthew 5-7 is filled with directives from Jesus that can inspire in us action in our ministry, family, community. Worthy of pondering, not just as nice yet challenging teachings, but as invitations to living our life to the fullest:

You are the light of the world...

You are the salt of the earth...

Judge not, that you be not judged.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you...

So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them...

The Office of Christian Formation values the **agency** given to us by Christ, awakened through our roles in serving the Church.