

The Harvest is Plentiful but the workers are few

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Joseph Parish,

Years ago a missionary in South America told me about a village high in the mountains. No priest had been there in months. When he finally arrived, the people handed him a folded paper. It was a list.

Not a grocery list. A list of names.

María's husband drinks and beats her. Pedro lost his son to the river. Ana hasn't spoken since her baby died. The old man Juan sleeps in the chapel because his family won't take him.

Page after page of wounds. At the bottom it said, Padre, please, we are tired and nobody sees us.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Mt 9:36

Jesus saw the same list. And His response wasn't a program. It was people. He called twelve nobodies, breathed His authority into them, and said, Go. Cure the sick. Raise the dead. Freely you have received, freely give.

That's Exodus: You will be my own possession... a kingdom of priests. That's Romans: While we were still weak, Christ died for us. God doesn't wait for us to get strong. He sends us into the mess.

So here's the question: Whose name is on your list this week? The co-worker who's "fine" but isn't. The teen who stopped coming to Mass. The neighbor you avoid.

You don't need a seminary degree. You just need to see them the way the Shepherd does. Then go.

Because the harvest is still plentiful. And the list is still long.

Have a Blessed week!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,
Pastor

