



ARTICLE 2

MISSION OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY: FULLY FOLLOWING HIM!

DECEMBER 2021 • SAINT PATRICK CHURCH, CARLISLE PA • FATHER DON

In the first article we talked about what it means to introduce ourselves and others to Jesus. Both we as a people and the people around us have a desire within us to build a relationship with Him. It is a desire placed in our soul by God. Remember who lives within you, the Holy Spirit. And remember that God's love for his son and Jesus love for His Father are so strong that this love is the third person of the trinity and that he lives within us!

This article we will dive in to the second half of the mission statement, "fully follow Him". Our mission is to introduce people to JESUS and TOGETHER fully follow Him! In some of my homilies I use a toy that expands from a spiked ball to a huge globe. The scientific word for it is a Hoberman Sphere. The idea that I try to convey is that our relationship with Jesus encompasses all we do, it is not just a spike on the ball like work, hobby, vacation, etc. It is in the calling of Peter to be a disciple that we see what this part of our mission is in our lives. Jesus says to Peter and Andrew, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." He is not offering them another part time job. He is telling them to leave this life and follow another path. I am not sure what was running through their heads? Fishing for men has to be better than fishing in the Sea of Galilee? The Gospel uses the words "all at once" and "immediately"; no second thoughts about what was happening. They dropped all the spikes on their ball and let Jesus encompass their lives like a globe.

He may or may not be asking you to do the same. But what he is asking of us is to let Him in to all the areas of our life. To let who we are, what we do and how we do it reflect Him in our lives. I know it seems like a lot to ask but remember, he is not asking you to do it alone. The words of our mission are "together fully follow Him". This is something we do in relationship not just with Him but with others! Our Church Family! More than just that, we do it together with the strength of the Holy Spirit!

How often do we forget about the Holy Spirit that we received at baptism and confirmation still lives within us! How does that work?

Paul tells us in Romans, "but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." All this to say that fully following Him is not something we do alone. We do it in our relationships with others as well as through the counsel of the Holy Spirit! I can not tell you how much I rely on the Holy Spirit to get through my days and challenges! He will help you too, help you live a life that allows you to walk with Christ, to live a life worthy of Him and this will lead to making the world a better place. A place filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit! Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. Imagine a world full of this fruit! A world full of people who have been introduced to Jesus and together fully follow Him?

In the next article, we will move from our mission to our purpose. The things we do to fulfill our mission!

Until then, reflect on these things.....

- What do I need to do in my life to get rid of the spiked ball and turn it into a globe?
- What does it take to make friends with Jesus and how do I add that to my life?
- Who do I look for in my life to help me get rid of the spikes?
- How am I letting the Holy Spirit work in me and through me to grow closer to Jesus and to reach out to others?
- What would you do if Jesus said to you "Come follow me"?

**NEXT ARTICLE:
GATHER**