

Faith in 5 – Adults
Apostles and Catholic Discipleship
May 20, 2022

1. **What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?** A disciple is a student or follower. The twelve closest to Jesus were His first disciples. From Luke 6: ¹³ “And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles”. An apostle is a messenger, someone chosen by Jesus to go out on a mission to spread the good news and share the teachings of Christ. Of the Twelve, these terms disciple and apostle can be used interchangeably.
2. **Who were the 12 Apostles?** Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Jude or Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. [Click to see symbols of these apostles.](#)
3. **What was the mission given to the Apostles?** In Luke 9, “And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal”. Jesus also appointed seventy others, sending them in pairs. He said to them in Luke 10: ⁸ “Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’”.

Jesus told his apostles to go out, warning them they would be like lambs among the wolves. He told them not to bring much with them, not to talk to anyone on the way and to accept whatever was placed before them. His apostles placed their complete trust in God for the provisions needed and their work at hand.

In what is known as “The Great Commission”, Jesus' last words to the eleven disciples were recorded in Matt. 28:19-20: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”.

4. **In the Bible, what is the book the Acts of the Apostles about?** This book covers the beginnings of St. Peter in establishing the Jewish Christian church, the eventual rejection of Jesus' message by the Jews, and the ministry of St. Paul to the Gentiles after receiving conversion. Highlights in this book include Christ appearing to His apostles and others throughout the 40 days after the resurrection, the Ascension of Jesus, Pentecost, and the conversion of Saul (Paul).
5. **As Catholics, what role do we play in Christ's mission?**
First, Christ asked us to pray for laborers. In Luke 10: ² He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest”. We pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life; we ask the Holy Spirit to bless and guide them in their ministry. We can pray, support or

participate in missions here or around the world. We can do our part by praying for the conversion of souls, and for tepid hearts by reciting the rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet.

Second, we can renew and deepen our faith so that we may share it with others confidently. We have a responsibility to be witnesses in the call for the New Evangelization, which Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict affirmed the need for.

The [New Evangelization](#), “does not seek to invite people to experience only one moment of conversion but rather to experience the gradual and lifelong process of conversion: to draw all people into a deeper relationship with God, to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, to develop a mature conscience, to sustain one’s faith through ongoing catechesis, and to integrate one’s faith into all aspects of one’s life”¹.

For us to be good witnesses of our faith, our relationship with Christ must be a priority. When we accept, understand and love the faith and relationship we have with Christ, it will carry over into the lives we lead. At the conclusion of Mass in the final blessing and dismissal, we are called to “Go forth, the Mass is ended”, or “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”. It is the mission of the faithful, to fulfill God’s Will in our lives. We become living witnesses of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. To those we meet, let us be the face of Christ; to those around us, may our lives exude Christ’s love and mercy; to those in need, may we be His hands and feet!

A good place to begin fulfilling Christ’s mission is within our own family, the domestic church. Parents can lay down the foundation for their children and help sustain the faith through catechesis and authentic Christian example. The home should be a place where prayer and holiness are encouraged; a place where peace dwells and where sacrifice and giving exemplify love.

There are many resources to learn more about the Catholic faith. Seek your local parish or diocese for more religious instruction, research the internet or read books on the Catholic faith and way of life. Strive for holiness; ensure your speech, your conversations and your activities honor Christ. Surround yourself with faith-filled people and become active parishioners in your church. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal opportunities to share your faith. Above all, continue to spend time with Jesus and keep praying!

¹Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis (2012). [Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization](#). United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

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