

A young man was assigned as an apprentice to a master artist who produced the most beautiful stain glass windows anywhere. The apprentice could not come close to the master's genius, so he borrowed his master's tools, thinking that was the answer. After several weeks, the young man brought the tools back and said to his teacher, "I'm not doing any better with your tools then I did with mine." The teacher replied, "So it's not the tools of the master you need, it's the spirit of the master you need."

As we watch Jesus instruct his disciples and send them out on their own mission of evangelization, we discover some seeds for our own mission of bringing Christ to the world. Jesus was impressing upon his followers that they did not need to load themselves up with things that might hinder their efforts to spread the Good News. Things like food, and traveling bags, and purses in their belts. He

wanted them to keep it simple. He wanted them to depend on God for their strength and their sustenance. He assured them that people in the various communities would take care of them and that they should not take advantage of the kindness of others. If they were unable to find a generous household, then they needed to leave that community shaking the dust from their feet and continuing their search until a suitable place was found.

This call to go out and spread the good news is not just confined to the twelve disciples. It is our call as followers too. We need to go back and revisit that moment in our lives when we stood before our community of faith and God and confirmed our desire to be a committed Catholic in the sacrament of confirmation. In that moment of spiritual maturity we received the gifts of the Holy

Spirit and were instructed to use them in our efforts to live Christ every day. These gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord were offered as a way for us to structure our lives as adults in the Church and begin our mission. By embracing these gifts and using them we bear much fruit that can enhance our lives and the lives of those who we come in contact with. The fruits of the Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self control, and chastity. If we acknowledge this fruit which is born of our life in the spirit and utilize it then we will have the necessary provisions to continue our mission of bringing Christ to the world. St. Paul said it best in his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but

the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform services, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.”