

Ven Holy Spirit, Ven!

Jeremiah 1: 4-9

2 Corinthians 4:1-2,5-7

Matthew 20:25b-28

My dear brothers who are about to be ordained to the diaconate, dear families and friends, clergy, the selection from the Sacred Scripture this morning serves well for us to understand the meaning of these two men saying yes to God's call to the priesthood and today's ordination to the diaconate.

Brothers, in the discernment of your call, you have heard the Lord asking you not to be served but to serve. Why? Because You are truly called by God and sent by God. It is God who commissions you to be his messengers. God knows you. And because he knows you very well, dedicates you and appoints you for the sake of his people. There are not valid excuses: I am too young, you are not. I do not how to speak. Well...you do! It is true that our vocation is not an easy one. You will be touched by loneliness, rejection and persecution. But above all, the Lord himself will comfort you: "I am with you to deliver you." May the Lord himself

touch your mouth to preach truly the Word of God to the people as you encounter them every day in your ministry.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reads: “Deacons share in Christ’s mission and grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint (character) which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the ‘deacon’ or servant of all.” CCC 1570. You will be ordained as a sign of Christ the Servant, in the heart of the Church and for the sake of the world.

Pope Francis said: “they are dedicated to the service of the poor, who carry within them the face of the suffering Christ.”

Ed and Paul, you will serve others in your LISTENING TO his Holy Word, in your WALKING WITH his holy people and in your PROCLAIMING OF the Gospel to all nations.

By listening to the Word of God with special attention, your heart will never be the same! It will open with such generosity and love that it will inspire your preaching, and the Holy Spirit will touch others in the manner of their need.

These need of your brothers and sisters will call you to walk with them, to go where you may not have ever thought of

going. You will take generously and courageously the extra step, making all the difference and bringing them closer to the Lord and to one another, especially the poor and neglected.

Your charismatic listening and walking will teach you how to proclaim in the way of Jesus the message of God’s love “even to the outskirts”. You, brothers, are now called to go “to the outskirts,” to the places where others may not, or will not go: the outskirts of people’s alienation, loneliness and pain.

Ed and Paul, if you wish to follow Jesus in this manner, you must as the Scripture calls us this morning say before the people your intentions. May you be known as slaves for the sake of Jesus, as Saint Paul said. You hold the treasure of Christ in earthen vessels, so that the surprising power may be of God and not from you.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe bearing Jesus Christ in her womb, be a constant reminder to you that to serve Christ is to serve God’s people, especially the poor as she did, always bringing hope and compassion to others.