



January 24, 2010

Dear Parishioners,

Henri Nouwen writes:

You are sent into this world to believe in yourself as God's chosen one and then to help your brothers and sisters know that they also are beloved sons and daughters of God who belong together...

You are sent to heal, to break down the walls between you and your neighbors, locally, nationally, globally.

Jesus sees himself chosen and sent as he reads words from the prophecy of Isaiah in today's Gospel from St. Luke (Luke 4:14-21). The meaning of his life unfolds as he opens the scroll and reads "in the power of the Spirit" in the synagogue where he was raised. Such words orientate his life. They give direction. They send Jesus on a mission.

Vatican Council II teaches that all of us share in the mission of Christ through baptism. In those waters of grace, there washes over us a primordial love that sends us forth beyond our small worlds so that, in the power of such love, we might begin to live for others; living in ways that deepens life with meaning.

This weekend, our parish school celebrates its 60th anniversary. And it was 60 years ago that a small band of Dominican Sisters from Tacoma were sent here by God to carry out Christ's mission through education. Today, we bear the fruit of such labor; and without question, we owe these Sisters of ours a profound debt of gratitude. Only God knows the true nature of their sacrifice over the many years they staffed our school. Were it not for their selflessness and dedication we would not be here today. Because of them we continue the mission of Catholic education, and thereby nurture within many young hearts and minds an awareness of God. This alone gives life here on earth purpose and meaning.

I congratulate Our Lady of the Lake Parish School on this occasion as it looks ahead to its future alive with promise and possibility. And let us give thanks to God for our Dominican Sisters whose commitment from the beginning makes our venture into Catholic education possible today.

Sincerely,

Father Tim Clark
Pastor