

April 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Christ on the Mountain,

As I continue to reflect on Pope Francis' **Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness** he makes it clear that we cannot understand Christ apart from the kingdom He came to bring and that our personal mission is bond to building the kingdom. Our connection with Christ and His will involves commitment to build with Him the kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. Christ wants to experience this with us, in all the effort and sacrifice, but also in all the joy and enrichment it brings. We cannot grow in holiness without committing ourselves to this endeavor #25.

It is not healthy to love silence while fleeing interactions with others, to want peace and quiet while avoiding activity, to seek prayer while disdaining service. Activity and prayer can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world and become a path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives even in the midst of action and to grow in holiness. There are times when we are tempted to relegate engagement and commitment to service in the world to second place, as if these were “distractions” along the path to growth in holiness and interior peace. This is not so. We can never forget that "life does not have a mission but is mission" #27.

Building the kingdom and prayer go hand in hand. We have a mission to build and to do it with prayer woven around the building. We are all on a mission. Life is a mission. I will continue to share the Holy Father's words with you because they are so instructive to living holiness in today's world. You can find the Apostolic Exhortation online under Gaudete et Exsultate: Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World. A lot of my reflection comes straight from the document.

I am reading it and sharing it in bite size pieces.

Fr. David