



Running Out of Gas

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

One of my friends had a girlfriend that lived on a farm outside of town. One sweltering summer day, on our way out to visit her, we ran out of gas. I assure you it was a very long, hot, and frustrating walk to the farm. All this could have been avoided had we been prepared to travel to our destination.

As Christians, our destination is heaven, and Jesus makes it rather clear that we are not supposed to show up there alone. We are not supposed to make this trip by ourselves. That is why Jesus says in the gospel to "Go! Make Disciples!" A disciple is another person (traveling companion) who has decided to follow Jesus towards their eternal destination. This is the heart of Jesus' great commission. His Father's room has many houses, but we need to help fill them up.

Of course we need to be properly prepared for the task at hand, otherwise we will end up frustrated and out of gas. We can't make disciples on our own. We need the Holy Spirit to help us. Before the disciples can complete their mission to make disciples, Jesus tells them to stay in Jerusalem and wait to be filled by the Holy Spirit. Only then can they accomplish the task at hand (Acts 1:1-11).

As a parish, we have been given the same mission: "Go! Make Disciples!" We cannot claim to be followers of Jesus if we do not take his instruction seriously. The world needs Jesus. It is broken, hurting, frustrated and frankly, out of gas. We are the conduits by which Jesus transforms the world.

But we must be prepared. As a parish we must wait until we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have a job to do, a message to share, good news to tell and a journey to travel. And this journey begins by opening our hearts, asking, praying and receiving the Holy Spirit. It's time to get in the car, fuel up the tank, and be on our way!