

Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Feb 4th 2016

In today's gospel reading, Jesus gives his apostles the power to do what he has done, i.e. heal the sick and have power over demons. As he gives them power and authority to perform these actions, he also instructs them on how to conduct themselves with humility and without concern for where they will meet their basic needs.

I would guess that not many of us would have the courage to do as Jesus instructed his apostles. We like what comforts we have, and would consider it foolish to have no money when heading out on a trip. What would really require courage and total faith from the apostles would be this new role of healing and having power over demons. They have seen Jesus do these things but now he is sending them out in pairs without his accompaniment. I wonder if it crossed their minds that they might attempt to heal someone and be totally unsuccessful, or that no one would be willing to provide them with shelter or food. Nothing is in the gospel about any reluctance on the part of the apostles. Rather, it seems they embraced their new role, preaching, driving out demons and healing the ill.

Ignatius of Loyola's *Suscipe* reflects the humility and trust the apostles had and that we all need to follow the call of Jesus.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,

My memory, my understanding,

and my entire will.

All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace,

That is enough for me.

Susan Tinley-Creighton University's School of Nursing