

OCTOBER 18 2025 BISHOP ROBERT KASUN

Dear friends,

There was a time, not too many years ago, in the history of the church, when we heard this Gospel proclaimed, and we heard the Lord say, "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

We thought of praying for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and certainly that was a good intention for each of us to pray. But at that time we thought of those who are sent out as labourers, as the Lord sent out the seventy disciples, as those who had specific church vocations—priests, sisters, and brothers. So, we prayed for somebody else to become active in the church and to go out into the parishes and schools and universities of the world and to the foreign missions.

In more recent years, the church has broadened that understanding. When we are asked to pray for labourers into the harvest, when we ask the Lord for vocations to be missionaries in the church, we've come to the awareness that that means us—you and me—for it is not only certain people who are called to the missionary vocation, but the church is missionary in itself.

This means that, by virtue of our baptism, we are all called to be the Lord's disciples, the Lord's missionaries, even in our own towns and cities, in our home country. So, we pray for an awakening of the call in the mind and heart of each one of us.

The message that we are called to proclaim is the message of the kingdom of God. What is that? The kingdom of God on earth is, in essence, the kingdom of peace and love and justice. As Jesus proclaimed the message of peace and love and justice in his life—and, in particular, in St. Matthew's Gospel, chapters five, six, and seven, the Sermon on the Mount—it is, therefore, our responsibility to carry forward the good news that Jesus loves us.

We are called to be the effective, joyful, generous witnesses to the Holy Gospel. May we respond to that call in our everyday life.