

Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua June 13, 2017 St. Agnes Church

The best possible teacher is personal experience.
If you want to know about the Grand Canyon,
don't sit in your living room armchair and read books and look at pictures;
go there in person.
See with your own eyes. Touch with your own hands. Hear with your own ears.
Smell with your own nose.

If you can't possibly get there yourself, the next best resource,
as far as getting an accurate depiction of the Grand Canyon,
is to speak with an eye witness...a credible eye witness.
A five year old who visits the Grand Canyon will give you a different description of the experience than a
35 year old who visits the Grand Canyon.

If you want to know about Jesus Christ, about God
don't sit in your living room armchair and read books and look at pictures.
Go to where Jesus is, to where God is, in person.
Experience Jesus with your own spirit, soul, body and mind.
If you lived at the time right after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven,
if you wanted to know about Jesus, you would seek out and listen an eye witness:
one of the apostles. They not only saw and heard Jesus, they were commissioned by him
to continue his work.
The apostles became mediators of Jesus' words, example, his work.

There are a lot of people in the world who do not know, who do not know about, Jesus Christ.
Their best possibility as far as experiencing him is not an apostle...they are dead and gone.
Their best possibility of experiencing Jesus is through credible believers.

Jesus instructs his disciples: "you are salt; you are light.
Because of what you have seen and heard and received from me,
you have something that others do not.
Your vocation, your mission, is to share what I have given you with others."
Jesus declares them to be mediators, to be distributors;
they are to pass on to others something wonderful, something valuable:
their knowledge, their experience, their wonder, their awe, their faith.

Think for a moment of our sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
Without a priest to consecrate the Eucharist, the Mass cannot be celebrated.
The priest is the mediator. It is the priest's vocation to bring the sacraments to the people.
I am reminded of this when someone says "thank you monsignor for bringing Jesus to us".

Jesus says to all of us: "you are salt and light.
Your vocation, your mission is to bring these good things to the world, to your neighbor.
You are a mediator between me and the world."
In other words, if we as disciples do not fulfill this vocation,
someone today will be without Jesus.
In many cases, we are the only experience of Christ another person might have
because there is no one else.
Never doubt the importance of the moment.

Today's prayer: "O Lord, we are blessed with faith in Your Son Jesus Christ. Help us to give witness to
him by bringing the light of his love to the world through our concern, our kindness, our generosity and
our mercy. Amen!"