



Day 33: Living Our Identity and Mission to the Full

Jesus, Living the Fullness

“No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.” John 1:18

As we prepare to do battle in our life of mission, it is essential to first understand that our mission flows from our identity. As always, Jesus sets the perfect example for us. The core foundation of the identity of Jesus was always His beloved Sonship. He had a profound sense in all circumstances of His life that he was the beloved Son of the Father. With that said, with reverence, we stand before the mystery of how Jesus ‘matured’ in His identity and received His mission. The scriptures tell us: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” (Luke 2:52) The divine life of the Father constantly overflows into the Person of Jesus. When He became man, He was sent to share this life and love to all the sons and daughters of the Father. In this relationship of love, Jesus the Son is now Jesus our Brother. As is with the course of our own humanity, the maturing of brotherly love becomes spousal love, when a man lays his life down for his bride. Jesus, as Bridegroom of the Church, lives this identity in full when he lays down his life for His Bride, the Church. With this momentum of love, Jesus lives the fullness of His identity as son, brother, and spouse, when He reveals the love of the Father to the world. Clearly, when Jesus manifests the love of the Father to the world, there is a new inbreaking of the Kingdom of God which brings us new life. His identity, now expressed outwards to all of us in divine love, reveals His true mission to bring salvation. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we too are called to keep growing in our identity so we can live the fullness of our mission.

Mary, Sharing in the Fullness

Mary’s whole life and vocation was a front row seat to the overflowing generosity of God. As the Mother of God, Mary was able to witness firsthand the whole life of Jesus, and how the divine life and love of the Father, perfectly manifested in the Person of the Holy Spirit, overflowed into Jesus and then to others. As Jesus “increased in wisdom and in years,” Mary pondered her son’s life and mission to bring salvation to the world. Mary was an especially supporting and encouraging presence to Jesus as He prepared to teach, preach, and to lay down His life in love for His people. She realized that as His mother, she was to not only support Him and encourage Him, but to also share in the very life of His mission. Thus, she shared in the ‘overflow’ of His divine mission to love.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You have been given a mission for others. At our baptism, we receive the gift of our baptismal identity as adopted sons of the Father. As a son, Christ Himself invites you on a journey to grow to “the measure of the full stature of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13), as mature adopted sons of the Father, fully alive in Him. With the life and identity of Jesus as our model, Jesus shows us that sons have to then go on mission to love and serve others. This is where we receive our identities as brother, husband, and father. As men in the Kingdom of God, we are tasked to be His instruments and fight to bring the gospel way of life to those around us. The Meso-American indigenous cultures also had rituals for newborns that provided identity and purpose. Baby boys were handed arrows and shields, baby girls were handed small spindles. Juan Diego, as a grown man, took upon himself, together with his wife, the new life of Christ in baptism – dying to his old life and identity and becoming a son in the Son so that Mary can intimately call him her “Juan Diegotzin.” She calls him by his baptismal name and not Cuauhtlatoatzin, affirming his new identity and dignity in Christ. As Juan Diego’s heart was filled with love and grace from the divine meeting, he was quickly called to be an instrument of divine love to those suffering around him. This expression of love outwards becomes the beginning of his mission in the world. As a son of the Father and Our Lady, you are called to be an instrument of God’s love in the world. Your relationship with God is not just for you, but for your family, friends, and all those you meet along the way. Brother, the grace you are receiving here is meant to set the world on fire.

Prayer

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are the beloved Son who constantly receives the love of the Holy Spirit from Your Father and overflows that love into the world. As sons who are called to share in Your mission, we long to be instruments of this overflow in the world. We ask you now to hear this prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of us, draw us close to your heart. You are the perfect mother who constantly supported and encouraged Jesus in His life and mission. As you called St. Juan Diego on his mission to be an instrument of conversion and healing, call us now to be faithful to our God-given mission. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

After reading today's reflection, [pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship](#).

This reflection is an excerpt from the book *Sons in the Son* written by Fr. Innocent Montgomery, CFR, and Fr. Angelus Montgomery, CFR, and produced by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. This reflection is to be used for private devotional use only. For more information, please visit kofc.org/sons.