

Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare
Saginaw, MI

Resolutely Determined

In today's Gospel (LK 9:51-62), Jesus is "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem." When his disciples find various reasons to object, he explains that they must continue their work and travel to Jerusalem in order to "proclaim the kingdom of God."

Like those disciples, we have completed our liturgical journey with Jesus through Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Now it is time for us to be "resolutely determined" to stay on our journey with Jesus and proclaim the kingdom of God.

Jesus warns us that remaining on the journey with him will not be easy. He has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and to help us follow in His way. However, life has many twists and turns, and we often falter or find excuses and slip away from our faith commitment. We get tired or bored. We are torn by family commitments, concerns about our jobs, or health issues. And yet, Jesus says there is nothing more important than being "resolutely determined" to proclaim the kingdom of God.

What does it look like for us today to proclaim the kingdom of God? I believe that all of us try to do this. We remind ourselves that God is always with us. We hold hope in our hearts that even in the face of struggles, illness and death, we can proclaim the kingdom of God in our midst. I believe that if we strive to act with kindness, charity, and respect for others in our homes, our society and our church, we can daily proclaim the kingdom of God in our lives and the lives of those around us.

We all face difficult times when we, like the disciples, get discouraged and find our resolution to follow Jesus tested. I live in a community of four sisters, and we have lived and worked together for more than 40 years. This year, we had to move two of our sisters to an assisted living care facility. That was and continues to be a heart-breaking decision for all of us. Basically, we miss living with each other. We experience the constant ache that someone is missing.

This change in our community has tested our faith. We realize that all we can do is to place our trust in God. We can do that because we have hope in God's eternal promise of goodness for our lives. It is by resolutely clinging to God's promise that we have been able to cope with this change. We find that we must be very determined to help each other with kindness, love, and charity if we are to stay faithful in our own life circumstances.

We come here today to pray together and to be nourished by the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the food of strength for our daily actions and interactions and the way we demonstrate our call to be followers of Jesus. Our destiny is not Jerusalem as it was for Jesus and his disciples. Our destiny is here and now in our own lives to resolutely proclaim the kingdom of God with faith, hope, and charity, wherever we are.

(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at: <http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

Sr. Laura and Sisters

(Given at St. Mary, Alma, MI and Mt. St. Joseph Parishes, St. Louis, MI)



Endless Road
Margret Hofheinz-Doring