



St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), (1887-1968) the Italian Franciscan priest is better known as "Padre Pio" and known for his suffering, humility and miracles. Shortly after his priestly ordination in 1910, he received the Stigmata.

First Reading: (Prov 30:5-9) Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Two things I ask of thee; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God.

Ps 118:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 1

R./ Your word is a lamp for my steps.

Gospel: (Lk 9:1-6) Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Reflection: Like the disciples the Church today must totally depend on God. The Gospel today gives the requirements for those who are invited to share in his mission. They are to go forth without encumbering provisions, so that nothing may distract them from their goal. It is also an invitation to trust in the providence of God himself. Jesus sent his disciples to cast out devils, cure diseases and to proclaim the good news. Today, more and more new medicines are invented to cure physical illness. But **there is an urgent need to cure spiritual illness which can be done only when one gets rooted in the values of Jesus' kingdom.** Hospitality, Poverty, acceptance and communion are the tips given in the Gospel today for our earthly journey. 'Eat what they serve you'. Eating with others is a sign of communion. In the present day context where the food habits are commercialized this is an invitation to remain in connection with others. In this highly technological world it is a challenge to rediscover the heart of discipleship. After his resurrection Jesus said, "As the father has sent me so I sent you." What trust Jesus places in us. We are called to share in Jesus' own mission.