

Reflection on  
Chapter 12: The Proclamation of the Gospel and the Life of Faith  
By Tien Dinh

Throughout the history of our province, we have demonstrated that we are missionary province through our willingness to go to places to proclaim the gospel, to proclaim the Good News to people. We have been to places such as Guam, Saudi Arabia, and many countries in Central America to spread the Gospel to people who wants to hear it. Even though Montana is within the United States, we treat our ministry there as a mission, proclaiming the Gospel to the people who are there, therefore our province is no stranger to be on a mission to evangelize people and spreading the Word of God.

Presently, our Province is committing to serve people who are in Saudi Arabia and Montana. Even though our province struggles in finding ordained brothers to fulfill the mission in Saudi Arabia due to the many requirements that are needed to go there as well as many brothers are growing older, but the constitution reminds us that, "Let us commit ourselves not to leave the Lord's missionary command unanswered or inoperative, aware that every person has the right to hear God's good news, so that they can live their vocation to the full." There are people in Saudi Arabia who are in need of hearing the Gospel preached to them, therefore we are to commit ourselves in proclaiming the Gospel to the people because they deserve to hear it. YES, we have shortage of brothers in many ministries within the province that we want to fill and YES, we don't have many ordained brothers that we can afford to go to Saudi Arabia, but we must have faith in God. We must continue to pray for more vocation for our Order and believe that we will get through this hard time of shortage of brothers in some way. We are to continue to ask ordained brothers who are able to go and serve to go as the constitution remind us that "The ministers shall not refuse to send suitable people because of the scarcity of brothers in the Province, but place all their worries and concern in Christ who continually look after us." Not only the minister, but also those ordained brothers who are able to go to the mission shall not refuse either. We are missionary province and we should not lose the Missionary Spirit. I think that we should continue to be a missionary province in working and spreading the Gospel to the people in Saudi Arabia even in our current shortage of brothers.

I am greatly delighted that we, as a province, are committing ourselves to minister to the Native Americans in Montana. We are forming a community in Crow Agency, Montana in order to minister to the Crow people. I think it is an important ministry for us so that we can proclaim the Gospel to the people who want to hear it because they have "the right to hear God's Good News." I know that Montana might not be on the bucket list of places to go in one's life, but it is a place that we are committing ourselves to spread the Good News to people. As many of you may have know, I will be serving as a deacon at St. Dennis Parish in Crow Agency. I know that it will be a challenge for me moving from a big city like Chicago to a small city, but it is a challenge that I will greatly accept in order for me to minister to people there. I hope that the

younger brothers in the Province will be willing to serve in Montana in the future so that our mission there will continue.

We, as Capuchin Franciscans, are called to trust and have faith in Christ and know that he will provide for us in our work of missionary, in spreading the Gospel to people as well as in our work in other ministries within our province. With our faith in Christ and through the grace of God, we will be “ready to face even the most difficult situations...”