

25 Ord C 2016 Mission Talk, Amos 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

Prop: Rope, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

### **INTRODUCTION**

I fly in the largest and longest mission in the world. It incorporates the Aleutian Chain of Alaska. It is 33,000 square miles, a little larger than South Carolina or Maine. We named it the Saint Paul mission because Saint Paul challenges each one of us to take the Gospel "To the Ends of the Earth."

### **NO MCDONALDS, I BRING CHRIST**

I fly our Cherokee Warrior II to some 30 villages in severe Alaskan weather.

Between villages there are no roads, telephone poles, or houses, or stores, only tundra, mountains, rivers, and lakes. **I bring Christ to those who are isolated in their faith.**

### **DANGEROUS**

It's a dangerous mission, god rest his soul, the priest before me, Father Kelly crashed and was killed on the way to a Palm Sunday mass in Togiak, Alaska. I have taken on the call to be the missionary pilot for these people.

### **POOR COMMUNITY, FLY WITH ME**

We are a poor, native Yupik community that desperately needs help to build faith and family life. I am here today to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ like I do in those 30 villages. It is a gospel of conversion, hope, and mercy. I am here today to invite you to be a missionary with me to fly to those 30 or so remote Alaskan villages. Fly with me to Naknek, Manokotac, Koligonik, and Stewyahok.

### **IMMORAL STEWARD**

The immoral business story in our Gospel is meant to point to something spiritual.

The lazy steward had a conversion experience. He stopped thinking of himself and started thinking of others. He went from being selfish to selfless. Conversion is always turning from your own needs to look at the needs of others. Conversion always requires a change in our lives.

### **MY CONVERSION**

My conversion came when I realized that everything I was doing as a single person was only for myself. It was an empty feeling. I gave up drinking and the wild single life and become more virtuous. After several years I was able to clearly see what God was calling me to do, My mission from God: to be a flying Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Anchorage in Alaska.

### **CONCLUSION:**

It is such a privilege to be here before you today. This is how I tie down my airplane, Father Kelly taught me this before he died. (PROP TIE KNOTS, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Please pray for Our Catholic Alaskan Mission and support us during the second collection. Another way to donate safely is to check out my website, [holyrosaryalaska.org](http://holyrosaryalaska.org). Help me to bring the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the Earth (423 Words).

### **READINGS**

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!

"When will the new moon be over," you ask, "that we may sell our grain, and the Sabbath, that we may display the wheat? We will diminish the ephah, add to the shekel, and fix our scales for cheating! We will buy the lowly man for silver, and the poor man for a pair of sandals; even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!" The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!

1 Timothy 2:1-8

First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle (I am speaking the truth, I am not lying), teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.

Luke 16: 1-13

Then he also said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'what shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another he said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?

If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

INTERCESSION

Intercessions: Twenty-fifth Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

### **Celebrant**

As we pray for the grace to keep God's commandments, let us pray that justice may flourish in the world.

### **Deacon/Lector**

For the Pope and all the bishops of the Church: that they may be faithful stewards in God's household, and true shepherds of the flock, we pray to

the Lord.

For our own society and country: that our hearts may be open to one another, and that justice may flourish among us.  
Lord, hear us.

That the members of Sacred Heart Parish continue to be generous with their time, talent, and treasure, we pray to the Lord.

For all who have died (especially .....): that they may enjoy the promise of Jesus' resurrection and that those who are grieving for them may be consoled, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....we pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant**

Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear the prayers of your faithful and answer them in your great love and mercy, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Other thoughts

**MASTERING OURSELVES**

For us, going from a lazy steward to mastering ourselves involves ridding ourselves of harmful vices such as greed, addictions, arrogance. Then, becoming more virtuous: be more charitable, patient, humble, kind.

**SAINT IGNATIUS**

Saint Ignatius said, "In order to be able to serve others effectively we must be able to master ourselves. We must possess the virtues that make this mastery possible."

**SAINT THERESA**

Saint Theresa of Avila tells us "If we submit our will to God we will become masters of ourselves. It is then that we can employ ourselves wholly in the service of God."

**CALLED TO BE MASTERS ON A MISSION**

The gospel is calling you to be a Master on a Mission! A Master on Mission is a person chosen by God to serve others, protect people, guard our faith, and be a supporter of good.

**ADVENTUROUS**

In Alaska we started the Saint Paul Mission to take the sacraments, as Saint Paul tells us, To the Ends of the Earth." I fly our donated Cherokee Warrior II to some 30 villages surrounding Dillingham, Alaska. There are no roads. Travel to the villages is by airplane only. Being Masters on Mission requires us to be adventurous.

## **CREATIVITY**

When I tie my airplane down, I tie three knots (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Masters on a Mission are creative because they have tremendous initiative.

Creativity is needed to be on a mission from God.

## **RISK TAKING**

Once I was on my way to Levelock, Alaska, a small village with a small dirt runway. The wind started gusting to 35 miles per hour. I decided not to land. I diverted to the longer King Salmon, Alaska runway. The next morning as I was taking off, my engine blew up. I was able to abort the landing without hitting the end of the long military runway. If I would have landed on the smaller dirt strip in Levelock the day before, I would have crashed into the trees. God guides those who take risks while on mission.

Flying from village to village is very risky. Fr. Kelly, who started the Saint Paul Mission, got lost in fog, crashed into a mountain. God called him home that day. He died doing what he loved!

## **ACTION**

I call on the Holy Spirit to motivate me. I fly into villages, and seek out the Catholics, i.e. new school teachers, cannery workers, Yupiks, etc. I set up a time for mass and fly back at a set date. I do not wait for people to contact me for the sacraments, I go to them. Masters on Missions take action.

## **CONCLUSION**

You are called today to become a Master on a Mission. Your mission is to serve other. To do that, be creative, take a risk, and take action. I am asking every one of you to help me bring the Gospel "To the Ends of the Earth" (623 Words).