

**Question: What decision will you make today to become better equipped for mission as a team or as a parish?**

**Prayer:**

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, in your mission you were full of purpose and single minded.

*Response: Word of God, walk with us*

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, in your mission you were courageous and without security but with complete trust in the Father.

*Response: Word of God, walk with us*

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, in your mission you did not cling to your divine gifts and privileges, but lived humbly like one of us.

*Response: Word of God, walk with us*

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, in your mission you did not work alone, but engaged a team of co-workers.

*Response: Word of God, walk with us*

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, your life resonated with a joy generously shared with others

*Response: Word of God, walk with us*

**Conclude with singing the following chant twice**

Melody:

Go out to all the world, and tell the good news!

Go out to all the world, and

sing: "Al - le - lu - ia!"

David Haas, GIA Publications

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## RCIA: Fit for Mission

*In many ways the existence of an RCIA team in a parish is already evidence that mission has taken place. We could say that RCIA teams have an inherently missionary character. Nevertheless, like all members of an institution, RCIA team members also run the risk of becoming inwardly looking, of becoming more concerned about doctrine than about real people and real lives, of becoming blind to the flaws and gaps in their own practices, of not hearing the insider terminology in their own language. The following reflection draws on the Gospel of Luke and on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to bring to awareness anything that needs addressing.*

**As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."**

### Psalm 96

*Call*

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
Declare his glory among the nations,

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;

*Response*

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.  
His marvellous works among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength

Bring an offering and come into his name;  
courts.

Tremble before him, all the earth.



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**All: Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established;  
It shall never be moved.  
He will judge the people with equity."**

### Scripture reading Luke 10: 1-9, 17-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup>Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup>Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup>Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" <sup>6</sup>And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup>Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup>cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' <sup>18</sup>He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup>See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

### Reflection Points

*Choose any or all of the following points to reflect on together*

1. "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." The Lord tells us in no uncertain terms that there are many waiting for good news. Is it the experience of your RCIA team that the harvest is plentiful? If not what can be done to find out where the harvest is? What will you need to do.
2. Are the labourers few in your group or parish? Jesus appoints seventy others from the larger pool of disciples. Our pastoral plan 'Fit for Mission' has a priority for enlarging the net by working in Pastoral Areas (see page 3). Talk this option through with each other. Can you invite people from neighbouring parishes on your team or can you form an area team?

3. How does Jesus reach out to the wider community? He sends messengers ahead. He tells them to live like the people they're visiting depending on them for their daily needs. Stunningly he gives them the authority to cure the sick and to talk about the Kingdom of God.  
Communication is marked by a very personal involvement in the life of others. Our pastoral plan 'Fit for Mission' urges us to re-evaluate our communication methods. How can your RCIA team use modern methods of communication that would help your mission without losing the human dimension?
4. In his document "The Joy of the Gospel" Pope Francis says: "Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others" (*Evangelii Gaudium, Par 10, quoted from Aparecida document*). The Gospel reading illustrates this point. Is this joy present in your own life and ministry? What could you do to regain it?
5. In the Gospel Jesus passes on his gifts and authority to the seventy for the sake of his mission. They rejoice at their success, but also at their newly acquired power, which elicits a warning from Jesus. 'Fit for Mission' asks us to unite our many gifts for the sake of the mission of Christ in a collaborative and co-responsible way. What would your ministry look like if you put this into practice? What would need to change?

The apostles never forgot the moment when Jesus touched their hearts: "It was about four o'clock in the afternoon." (Jn 1:39). The believer is essentially "one who remembers."  
Par 13