

DO YOU HAVE INVITING FEET?

No, I'm not talking about your most recent pedicure. Rather, do your feet point in the direction of others with the intention of inviting them to share in the Good News, peace and salvation that you know in Christ? Please take a few moments to read this short encouragement from Rev. John Diener of the English District Evangelization Team to see just how beautiful and inviting your feet are.



Our feet are often unappreciated and even shamed from time to time. There's not many of us who would greet someone saying, "You just have to look at my feet." And yet these same feet are shod with anything from high heels to sandals to winter boots. Our feet take us from place to place without us giving them as second thought – that is, until we have a pebble in our shoe or they are barking from a long day's work.

But God's Word elevates our feet by calling them beautiful when they lead us to invite others to share in the saving Good News. The prophet Isaiah writes, *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*

(Isaiah 52:7)

On Sunday we will be looking at John chapter 1, and there see how Phillip invited (Listen – Ask – Seek – Share – Invite – Encourage) Nathaniel to **come and see** the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. The Message paraphrase puts it this way, "Come, and see for Yourself." This isn't some elaborate invitation but simply sharing what you have with another person allowing them to "see for themselves" the hope that You have in Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). The kingdom of God continues to grow in that very same way as we **invite others to come and see for themselves** this same Jesus as He gives us His Word and Sacraments. But our first invitation to a neighbor, co-worker or friend to "come and see" may not necessarily be to a worship service. It may be to a family meal where everyone joins hands in prayer trusting that God provides all good gifts.

There is a story of two robins sitting in a tree. "I'm really hungry," said the first one. "Me too!" said the second. "Let's fly down and find some lunch." Said the first one. SO they flew to the ground and found a nice plot of plowed ground full of worms. They ate and ate and ate until they couldn't move. They looked at each other saying, "we can't move. Let's just lay here and bask in the warm sun". So they plopped down, basking in the sun. No sooner had they fallen asleep than a big fat cat snuck up and gobbled them up. As the cat sat washing his face with his paws after his delicious meal, the cat thought to himself, "Oh, how I love baskin' robins!"

Sometimes the Church (that's each one of us) has the same problem. We look to be fed ourselves, but we rejoice in the fact that we are satisfied rather than considering a world hungry for the Good News, peace and salvation you have. But instead of just basking in the glory of God's good gifts, the Holy Spirit equips us (and our beautiful feet) to go out into the world where we live with the intentional purpose of inviting others **to come and see Jesus**, just like we have seen.

We have the joy of being fed and nourished each week by the Lord with His good gifts. How can we possibly keep that Good News to ourselves. May our prayer as the Church be for the Lord to make our feet beautiful by giving us opportunities to **invite others to see Jesus** and to give us the courage to use those opportunities to change people's lives right where you live and breathe and have your very being (Acts 17:28) by God's grace!

I have no problem saying, "Let me take a look at those feet of yours." That's because they are beautiful, indeed. How do I know? Because they are shod with the Gospel and adorned with the saving truth that "God reigns" even in these tumultuous times. With the power of the Holy Spirit, may your feet intentionally lead you to places where you can share, "Come and see for yourself," the blessings found in the Lord.

As a member of the English District Evangelization Team, I would like to "invite" you to share a time when you have invited others to "come and see" the Good News of Jesus – at work, in your neighborhood, at the store. Your feet are beautiful and we would love to hear your story or experience. Have you used the Every One His Witness materials to encourage and equip you to intentionally share Jesus? Your District would love to hear about it. You can send your story to my email: gracelc.pjd@gmail.com or to the English District office. We look forward to taking a gaze at your feet!!!