

Preaching and Curing Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time Wednesday, September 27, 2017 8:15 AM Ez 9:5-9; **Lk 9:1-6** St. Vincent de Paul, priest (The good news is of God's favor and God's good will toward his creation, and that involves the overcoming of evil, most especially evil that invades the human body or the human soul or the human mind.)

“They set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.”

Now Luke makes it very clear that when Jesus was training his disciples he gave them two basic responsibilities that are interrelated: **preaching the good news and curing diseases**. These are intrinsically related because—Why?—because **the good news is of God's favor and God's good will toward his creation, and that involves the overcoming of evil**, most especially evil **that invades the human body or the human soul or the human mind**.

Now Luke also distinguishes between **power and authority over all demons and curing diseases**. **Those are two different ministries**, but they go together in the work of the apostles and **they accompany the preaching of the gospel**. Now if the Church is to be faithful to Christ, it has to keep in mind all these basic interrelated realities. We must preach the gospel, and that is not for one class of people or one group of people; that is for the Church as a whole to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ and to bring healing to all diseases. This includes of course all of **modern medicine; they are responding to this call of God to heal all diseases**. As you probably know, I was in the hospital on Monday and actually it was, although not pleasant being there, but it was pleasant meeting all these wonderful nurses, doctors, caregivers, truly wonderful people all dedicated to the well-being of others; and it's obvious. So that is part of what Christ really set in motion. **And it doesn't have to have “a Christian label” to be part of Christ's work**.

Now the other part, which many people today think is simply a matter of superstition, talking about demons; I'm not so sure. Part of the problem with talk about demons is that mentally ill

people like to imagine demons are attacking them, which then puts the whole thing into a category of well this is all part of people's delusions. Well of course that can be the case, but that doesn't mean that everyone who talks about spiritual evil attacking them *they aren't*/are necessarily delusional. **Most actual attacks of demons come from people getting involved with Satanism,** and I hate to say, but that's much more common than you imagine. In fact there are Satanist centers in every big town, including DuPage County. Where are they? I can't tell you. I don't know. I don't want to know. But they are there. **So the work of evil is also always propagating itself.** We can't look at the world and see the sort of blindness, greed, stupidity, self-destruction, war, malice and not realize there is something behind all this. It isn't just foolish people doing foolish things. **There is an anti-kingdom at work, and Christ has come to overcome it.** And this is a long process, and we are all called to attention and to work toward this end: the freeing of people first of all from despair. **The good news: we are going somewhere, it's wonderful, and we are on the way.** And then free them from all the burdens that evil imposes upon them, in their minds, in their bodies, in their souls.