

Reflection Wednesday Week 14- 2023

Jesus asks his apostles, his missionaries, to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, not the believers or the faithful but the lost sheep. Pope Francis time and time again has asked us to go out to the lost sheep, to those who have lost contact with the church, strayed away, or are not sure how to return. This is always a challenge for us, but it is one of the most important actions we can ever make in our lives. Bringing back one person to Christ can often mean that it affects others and, in some cases, also helps others who are lost to find their home back with us again.

Fortunately, God can help us restore what is lost:

Through Christ, God can restore what is lost by deepening your fellowship with him. Prayer is a way of asking God to restore anything and everything that the locusts have eaten both in us and in those who are lost from the Church. But God can restore what is lost by multiplying our fruitfulness. Even though locusts have eaten the link the lost had with the Church, we can invite God to work in and through us so that we can reach out to the lost with a new heart. Let us not forget that Jesus, too, was cut off from the people when he was arrested, as Isaiah said: "He was cut off out of the land of the living" (Is 53:8). He was cut off because he came under the judgment of God, not for his own sins — because he had none — but for ours.

Our sins, our grief, our sorrows, were laid on him. Our judgment fell on him. Our locusts swarmed all over him. The life of God's tender shoot was "cut off." Then, on the third day, the Son of God rose in the power of an eternal life. He offers himself to you, and he says what no one else can ever say: "I will restore the years that the locusts have eaten from you and from those who are lost or feel alienated." Praise be to God!