

## Sunday Reflection for July 11, 2021

### The Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

from Jon Metz

My family recently went on a good old-fashioned American road trip. We drove west on I-90 through Minnesota and South Dakota. We drove up north through Wyoming and spent some time in Yellowstone National Park. We went down south into the Grand Tetons before heading back east to home and, yes, of course, we stopped at Wall Drug. It was a wonderful adventure, and I was so excited for my kids to see God's beauty all over our country. I have since heard of six different families taking the same trip this summer. I think it must be the official post-Covid trip.

The trip was incredible, but I don't want to talk to you about the travel. I want to tell you about the preparation. To go on this trip, my family had a lot of preparation. First, we planned. We put together a spreadsheet with dates, destinations, mileage and timeframes. We made packing lists that consisted of clothes, toiletries, medications, sunscreen, bug spray, car activities, footwear for occasions, rain ponchos, swimming suits and, of course, charging cords. We stopped our mail and talked to our neighbors about putting out our garbage. We put WAY more time on the preparation of the trip than we spent on the trip itself.

In the Gospel today, Jesus commissions his disciples to go out and begin their ministry. He instructs them to take nothing but a walking stick. Does he have them make itineraries? No. He tells them to go to the houses that invite them in. A couple of weeks ago I wrote about trust. So much of Jesus' message was rooted in trust. Jesus knew that, if his disciples were firmly focused on their mission, the details would fall into place. Today, we have a tendency to over plan and micromanage. Jesus reminds us to stay focused on the mission and not sweat the details. Things won't always go as planned, but we will be okay with faith.

- In what ways do you micromanage?
- How do you try to live out the mission of the disciples to spread the Good News?
- What is a time that you have trusted in faith?