



***“You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)***

A teenage girl named Jean got a summer job working as a maid in a hotel on Cape Cod, MA. Her job was to clean ten rooms every day. Over the summer, Jean met all kinds of interesting people, including a few celebrities. Of all the people she met, however, one stood in her mind above all the others. She called him Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed showed up one weekend with a small leather travel bag.

When Jean went to clean his room the next day, he stuck his head out of the door and said, “Forget about cleaning my room. Just give me a couple of clean towels.” The next two days he did the same thing. It wasn’t until midweek that Mr. Reed allowed Jean to enter and clean. As she did, he talked to her and even helped her make the bed. On Saturday Jean cleaned her usual ten rooms, including the room of Mr. Reed, with the little leather travel bag.

After she finished, Jean was walking down the street on her way to the 4:30pm Mass. Suddenly a car pulled up; it was Mr. Reed. Did she want a ride home? She said she was

going to church and would welcome a ride there. Once Jean was inside the car, Mr. Reed began bombarding her with questions. How often did she go to church? Why did she go, when lots of teenagers didn't? How good were the sermons? Did she receive Communion when she went?

When they arrived at the church, Mr. Reed surprised Jean by asking if he might attend Mass with her. She began to feel a little strange about his questions and his interest in the Mass. She felt even stranger when Mr. Reed knelt down inside the church, shut his eyes, and remained that way the rest of the Mass. When Mass ended, Mr. Reed did something even stranger. He got up and hurried outside the church, without even saying goodbye.

The next day, when Jean went to clean his room, the little leather traveling bag was gone. In its place was a small package with a note. She unfolded the note and read it. It went something like this:

“Dear Jean, the gift inside this box is for the beautiful thing you’ve done for me, without even knowing it. My marriage has been rather shaky lately – so much so, that I finally told my wife that I was moving out for a few days to think things over. The more I thought, the more confused I got. Then you came along. Your beautiful faith in God touched me deeply. When I attended Mass with you, it was for the first time in ten years. During that Mass God gave me an insight into my problem and the desire to stay with my wife. I’m going home grateful to God and grateful to you for being a shining light in a time when my world was very dark. I will never forget you for helping me rediscover my faith. (Signed) Mr. Reed”

Inside the package was a gold chain with a beautiful gold cross attached to it.

This story shows what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples: ***“You are the light of the world... Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”***

This story shows also what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples, *“You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

Let's take this message to heart and journey towards holiness together.

Do we allow the light of Jesus shine through us, individually and as a family, community, parish...?

Does our life proclaim the Risen Lord present and alive in our midst?

With deep gratitude,
Fr. Mark and the Xaverian Missionaries