

**Year of Faith**  
**Liturgical Minute No. 3**  
**Why Are You Just Standing There?**

In the Book of Acts, immediately before his ascension into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples a mission, and if we proclaim to be disciples of Jesus, that mission is also our mission. At that time, Jesus declared, “When the Holy Spirit comes upon you... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After Jesus challenged us to be his witnesses... to the ends of the earth, the Book of Act then tell us: “When he had said this, as [his disciples] were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.” And then immediately, we are told something that should be of great importance to us today; we are to that while his disciples were still “looking intently at the sky as [Jesus] was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them, [who said] ‘Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?’”

Reflecting on these words spoken to us in scripture, we must understand that we have been given an awesome responsibility by our Lord Jesus. How often do we fail to realize that we are called to be Christ’s witnesses to the world? Like his disciples, are we “just standing there” rather than getting busy in the fulfillment of our mission to announce the Good News of our Risen Lord to all people, everywhere and at all times – sharing our faith, first with our families, and when possible, with our coworkers, with our neighbors, and within our community, sharing first by the example of our lives, and then, when the occasion presents itself, through our words.

Major Sources: Preface to *Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization* (USCCB)