

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Jesus, in today’s gospel reading, compares his missionary work to a harvest.

There are so many to whom the gospel of salvation must be preached, but the preachers are few.

Indeed, Jesus needs more laborers for his missionary work. So, Jesus after sending the twelve apostles on a mission to preach his gospel in the towns and villages of Galilee in Luke chapter 9:1-6 in today’s gospel reading he sends a further seventy-two to go throughout the villages to announce the good news of salvation.

It is said that in sending out seventy-two disciples in pairs to every town and place he intends to visit, Jesus inaugurates the mission of spreading the gospel to the whole world.

To succeed in their missionary work they must be well prepared.

So, in the gospel reading Jesus tells them what they are sent to do, how they are to do it and what they need to keep in mind in order to deal with what they will meet.

They are sent to preach, to heal and to bear peace. They are to help their listeners to be in right relationship with God and with one another. They are to help them know the love of God. They are to help them have faith in God and walk in their faith.

To be able to do these things they need to make sacrifices of their time, talents and resources. However, they are to rely on the generosity of the people to whom they preach.

Jesus tells them to expect challenges, dangers and oppositions in their missionary activities. And in the event of an unfavorable reception, the disciples are to shake off the dust from their feet as they leave the town. They are to do this to symbolize that the people are not ready to acknowledge God in their lives. However, the disciples are to tell them that the kingdom of God is at hand.

The seventy-two return rejoicing in the success of their mission.

The harvest is still plentiful today; there are so many whom the gospel of salvation must be preached, but the laborers are few. So as we pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life let also play our part in the spreading of the gospel.

Let us live out our faith and spread it to others and help them to walk in their faith.

Let us preach the word that brings healing and comfort to ourselves and others.

Let us be peace makers and bridge builders in our communities.

Saint Paul, in the in the second reading, shares with the Galatians and with us what the blessing of his conversion to Christianity means to him.

Nothing else matters to him but to keep Christ's crucifixion ever before his mind.

Like Saint Paul let us also share our stories of God's goodness in our faith journey and invite others to experience the joy of knowing and serving the Lord.

Let us appreciate and share what being a Christian is, the difference it has made in our relationships with God and others; the positive influence it has made on our life.