



14th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR C – July 7, 2019***

The readings today speak to us about peace, the kind of peace the world cannot give. It is the peace of Jesus and he offers it to each of us. That raises a question. What do we mean by the “peace of Christ”? What are the ingredients that make it up?

Father Mark Link points out that when the bible uses the word “peace” it uses it in four different senses.

First it uses it in a military sense – to indicate the absence of war between nations. Thus, we can say, “The nations are at peace.”

Second it uses it in a personal sense – to indicate a feeling of personal well-being. Thus, we can say, “We are at peace with ourselves.”

Third, the Bible uses the word peace in a religious sense – to indicate a right relationship between God and ourselves. Thus, we can say, “We are at peace with God.”

Lastly, the Bible uses the word peace to indicate a state in which everyone on earth is at peace with God, neighbor, and self. This is what we mean by the “Peace of Christ.” This is what Jesus meant when he said, “Peace I leave you, my peace I give you (John 14:27).

It is this *peace* that Jesus instructed his disciples to carry into their world in their day. It is this *peace* that Jesus instructs us to carry into our world in our day.

We are to be instruments by which the Peace of Christ is to be extended to every individual in every nation on earth. This final peace, the Peace of Christ, is none other than the realization of God’s kingdom here on earth. To be instruments of that kind of *peace*, we need God’s help. And so, we pray with the words of Saint Francis of Assisi:

***“Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace.***

***Where there is hatred, let me sow
love;***

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much

Seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned;

and it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life.”

PEACE BE WITH YOU

