

August 11, 2019 -- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time -- Year C
Called, Promised and Delivered

Our first reading today is from the book of Wisdom, written about 50 years before the time of Jesus.

The writer is addressing his fellow Jewish people in Alexandria, Egypt, where they were becoming intrigued with the pagan way of life.

The author is encouraging the Jewish people by telling them again about the blessings they have had from the Lord in the past.

Today's reading reminds the Israelites that they had been saved from slavery in Egypt about 1200 years before this writing. Yes, they had been saved by the Lord, their God, as he had **promised** them.

God calls, God promises and God delivers!

When the Israelites escaped the Egyptians chased after them ... and the Lord made a way thru the Red Sea to save the Israelites.

The Israelites were starving in the desert and the Lord fed them with manna and quail.

God calls, God promises and God delivers!

In our second reading from Hebrews the author reminds the Christians about how God had **called** Abraham, God **promised** Abraham blessings, and God **delivered**.

God had **promised** Abraham a new home land, a long way from where Abraham lived.

God led Abraham over 1000 miles from what we call Iraq to the new home in what we now call Israel.

God **promised** Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, lived a long time without having a child.

Abraham wondered but God **delivered** ... they had Isaac in their old age.

God calls, God promises, and God delivers!

In Luke's Gospel Jesus tells his flock:

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

Jesus tells them several stories to make his point.

Jesus tells them about his expectations for them to enter the kingdom.

- Use your money to help others.
- If you are good servants the Lord will reward you
- If you are given responsibility, handle it justly.

Jesus **calls** us to follow his lead, to be God-like, to continue God's work in the world, to follow his pattern: **to call, to promise and to deliver!**

As I think of all these expectations from Jesus, I am reminded of Fr. Patrick's usual weekly homework assignments.

Wow! Where to start this week's homework with all these high expectations from Jesus!

As I think of these issues, I think of our situation right here, here in Corpus Christi Catholic Community, here in August 2019.

What's going on here?

What should we be doing?

What should each of us be doing?

What should I, and you and you, and you be doing?

Calling, promising and delivering????

Here is something that immediately comes to mind!

Next Sunday we are having our annual picnic right here on the parish property!

Well, you say, "That's not work; that's just food and fun!"

Ah, the work?

Meeting and greeting new people, new members, visitors, people you have not met before.

That's it ... be friendly.

OK, tell me more about the picnic.

In the back you'll find an information sheet that looks like this. On the back it asks about who is going to attend and what food you will bring.

Here's another idea ... one that is near and dear to my heart!

Have you possibly seen or heard the phrase we learned from our Nigerian members?

"Each one, bring one!"

One way to accomplish that is to invite someone to attend our Inquiry sessions to learn more about our faith, about Jesus, about how we practice our faith.

We will be having five more of these sessions on Tuesday evenings, two more here in August and then three more in September.

The sessions are in the Rainbow Room and people can inquire, that is, they can ask any question that they are pondering as they think of joining our faith here at Corpus Christi.

Would Jesus like you to invite others?

Does this fit in with "Unleash the Gospel"?

Yes! Amen! Alleluia!

There are tri-folds like this on the table in the back of church.

You guessed it ... here's another idea to consider!

We are hand-delivering these fliers all around our neighborhood. The event is a combination Revival and Healing service.

We have an absolutely marvelous speaker for the Revival. His name is Richard Lane and he goes all over the country, all over the world, preaching for the Lord.

This will be on Friday of this week, here in the church, starting at 6:30pm.

Is the Lord whispering in your ear, "You really ought to go to that!"

Yep, I bet the Lord will mention that to you several times!

There are fliers in the back of church for the Revival.

Yes, there are four sides to this box and I would not waste one of them so here is a fourth invitation for you.

OK, you say, what's VON and CCSE?

Last year our parish changed the name for one of ministries that was already five years old.

We had been calling it "Door-to-Door" ministry but we changed it to "Visiting Our Neighbors".

And that's what we do, we go in teams of two people and visit homes in our neighborhood on Wednesday evenings.

Currently we are visiting homes between Burt Road and Lahser, between 7 Mile and Pembroke.

We would love to have you come at 6:00pm, pray with us here in the chapel, and join us to observe how we do the ministry.

We have about the same number of men and women and we would love to have others join, young folks and even old folks like me!

OK, for VON.

So, what is that CCSE?

Well, CCSE is short for "Corpus Christi Storefront Evangelization".

As the name implies, we go in groups of two or three and stand outside the doors of stores like Apollo on 7 Mile or Foodland on 8 Mile.

We start by asking permission of the management and they have yet to say "no".

We have a sign that says "Free Prayer" and we offer to pray for people.

Some people join us for prayer and ... yes, it can lead to amazing conversations about their needs and about the faith.

Last Wednesday was my first time and I went with Fr. Patrick to Apollo.

I was **blown away** by some of the prayers and conversations!

- Young folks,
- old folks,
- a pregnant mom,
- a man with 9 kids working three jobs,
- a young mother of two children who is searching for a great way of life with the Lord,
- a man who was angry about Jesus, ... and on and on!

God **calls** all of us to attend to others, to care for others, to spread his good news.

God **promises** the joys of ministering.

God **delivers**, with the joys of today and the joys of life everlasting.

Yes, God calls, God promises, and God delivers!!!!