

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

4<sup>th</sup> July 2010

"The harvest is plentiful... Pray the Lord to send out laborers into his harvest"

Scripture: *Luke 10:1-12, 17-20*

*After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off against you; nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it shall be more tolerable on that day for Sodom than for that town.*

*The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

### **Meditation:**

Jesus tells his disciples to ask the "Master" (God the Father) of the "harvest" (conversion to Christ) to send out more "laborers" (evangelisers). And in the next breath, he tells them that THEY are the laborers and that they must get busy: "Go on your way," he says.

When you think of evangelisers in the Catholic Church, who comes to mind first? Most people think of priests, and we all know that we need more priests. Do you pray for an increase of vocations? But that's only part of what Jesus is asking for. "Go on your way," he says to ALL of us, "and use YOUR gifts, YOUR talents, and YOUR skills to assist in the harvest.

The number of laborers for the mission of the Church will only be sufficient when we all join the effort – clergy, religious, AND laity – working together with our separate and unique talents and skills, humbly assisting each other as members of the same team. To reach this sufficiency, many of us have to overcome the "someone else will take care of it" attitude.

Jesus commissioned the seventy to a two-fold task: to speak in his name and to act with his power. Jesus gave them instructions for how they were to carry out their ministry. They must go and serve as people without guile, full of charity and peace, and simplicity. They must give their full attention to the proclamation of God's kingdom and not be diverted by other lesser things.

When God gives us his word there comes with it the great responsibility to respond. Indifference will not do. We are either for or against God in how we respond to his word. God gives us his word that we may have abundant life in him. He wills to work through and in each of us for his glory. God shares his word with us and he commissions us to speak it boldly and simply to others. Do you witness the truth and joy of the gospel by word and example to those around you?

### **Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

1. Do you consider yourself a laborer of Jesus or is Jesus a distant God answering our prayers and needs.
2. What kind of harvest does the Lord want us to reap today?
3. Do you share the Gospel with your family, colleagues and friends, Christian and non-Christian alike?

"Lord Jesus, may the joy and truth of the gospel transform my life that I may witness it to those around me. Grant that I may spread your truth and your light wherever I go"