



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 3, 2022

May I never boast except in
the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

— Galatians 6:14

GOOD NEWS IS ON THE WAY

This week, in the midst of summer, the scriptures greet us with joy, peace, mercy, and more peace! Sounds a little like Advent, doesn't it? We often associate the prophet Isaiah with that preparatory season, and our first reading rings with such words as exult, comfort, and rejoice. The Israelites had reason to rejoice, for they had returned, come home, to a rebuilt Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon.

In the Gospel, the seventy-two disciples who were sent out have their own "homecoming," returning to Jesus from spreading the Good News of the Kingdom and preparing people for the "advent" of Jesus into their cities and towns on his long road to Jerusalem. Like the exiles in Isaiah, the disciples return rejoicing.

The Good News, the Kingdom of God, is coming, even in summer. As today's psalm reminds us, "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!"

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

Do those around me see in me the joy of someone who has been rescued from sin?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26;
Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33
Sunday: Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37

SAVE THE DATE: Our Parish Picnic
returns on Saturday, August 6, 2022.
Join us for barbecue, games, and a
chance to re-connect with friends.
Hope to see you there!



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of July offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one].

6/26: 1st col: \$1431. 2nd col: \$2030.

7/03: Peter Pence. 7/10: Operating Expenses.



Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBD
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Every 3rd Friday. Details TBA

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

7/02 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
7/03 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Eugene DeMartini
7/03 Sun. 9:30am Mass
7/03 Sun. 11:15am Mass
7/06 Wed. 9am Mass for James Geving
7/08 Fri. 9am Mass for Larry Steiner
7/09 Sat. 5pm Mass
7/10 Sun. 8am Mass Casey Tolar
7/10 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
7/10 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ Deborah Marcelius

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Peter B., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick K., John Geving, Donna L.



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE JUNE 2022

On Tuesday, June 14, our very efficient volunteers welcomed 59 families, (143 individuals) with lots of smiles as well as a wide variety of fresh produce, proteins, commodities, fresh milk which they prepared on Saturday and Monday.

We saw a significant increase in the number of clients who chose to return to shopping inside our hall rather than drive through so, we are considering using reusable cloth bags to reduce our cost for paper bags. More details in future bulletins. If you have extra reusable bags you are not reusing, please drop them off at the parish hall.

In the interim, please save your clean egg cartons and handled paper bags for donation to our program by dropping them off at the parish hall. We thank you in advance.

Our program is open to all who are in need. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area:

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 - 10:00am repackaging;

Monday, July 11, 9:00 - 11:00am set-up; and

Tuesday, July 12, 7:30 - 11:00am distribution to clients.

Parables are always written in the present tense – they refer to now!

St. Paul's *Letter to the Galatians* (quoted today) reveals how upset he was with a split among Christian believers. There were those out of the Hebrew tradition who remained attached to their Old Testament heritage – rules, dietary laws, practices like circumcision. This drove Paul almost crazy – why would you want to remain in the “schoolyard” when it's time to graduate into what it means to be fully adult; where maturity awaits you. (Could it be fear?) And once such a nostalgic stand was taken, it generates its own opposition: polarization!

Last week we saw such polarization happening between the inhospitable Samaritans and the disciples of Jesus – who on their part wanted to burn down their village! So what does Paul say? Let me paraphrase it. *It's hard for me to become entangled in your “absolutes” – for the Gospel of Christ has made of me a new creation.*

Or as the *Gospel of John* puts it: *that we might all be born again.* This confused old Nicodemus who wondered how we could be returned to our mother's womb to undergo a second birth. He couldn't understand the range of a mind like that of Christ; indeed Christ wondered how Nicodemus (being so “single-minded”) had ever become an authority on anything. Indeed single-mindedness seems to be what's upsetting our world to an extreme degree today. Of course Paul admits that becoming this new creation, being born again, felt like a crucifixion, a painful process when it happened, a fright. But it also can result in a perpetual resurrection and clear skies and discoveries of who and what we really are.

But now, remembering last Sunday's conflict between the Samaritans and the disciples of

Jesus, let's anticipate next Sunday's parable of the Good Samaritan by way of E. E. Cummings's version of it – to see what it means to become a new creation (note: he writes in lower case).

*a man who had fallen
among thieves
lay by the roadside on his
back
dressed in fifteenthrate
ideas . . .*

*fate per a somewhat
more than less
emancipated evening
had endowed him with a
changeless grin*



*whereon a dozen staunch and leal
citizens did graze at pause . . .
then sought newer pastures . . .*

*one hand did nothing on the vest
its wide flung friend clenched weakly dirt . . .*

*brushing from whom . . .
i put him all into my arms
and staggered banged with terror through a
million billion trillion stars.*

--Geoff Wood, 7/03/2022

The Apple Tree Project: School Supplies for the Children in Our Rural Food Program

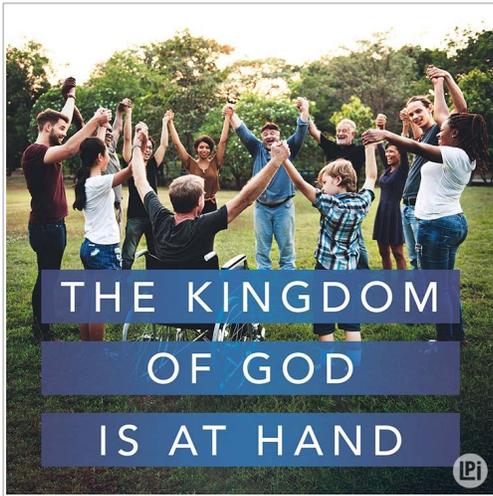
School will be starting in August, and with it, the need for costly school supplies for the children in our program. You can help!

Beginning June 25, there are collection jars in St. Philip and St. Teresa Churches. Please support our program with your personal donation.

Backpacks and school supplies will be purchased by parish volunteers and given to the families at the August Rural Food

Distribution. Questions? Please Contact Diane at 707-823-6044. Thank you for helping our children.





Called to Make the Kingdom a Reality

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.
—Luke 10:1

When we think about the great saints of our Catholic tradition, we realize that they very often come in pairs: Paul and Barnabas, Perpetua and Felicity, Benedict and Scholastica, Francis and Clare of Assisi, Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, to name only a few examples. Even within my own Salvatorian community, we often see our founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, paired with Blessed Mary of the Apostles (of the Salvatorian Sisters). To the list of martyrs and consecrated religious women and men, we can also add married couples like Isidore the Farmer and Maria or Louis and Zelig Martin (the parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux) — husbands and wives who proclaimed and lived their faith through the daily witness of their marriage vows and family commitments.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus sends out seventy-two of his disciples in pairs to "every town and place he intended to visit." These disciples were to let the local communities know that Jesus and the Apostles were on their way. They were being asked to evangelize — to announce the "Good News" that Jesus was coming. (Remember that our word "evangelize" comes from the Greek word *evangelion*, which originally meant a joyful announcement — good news — that a king was coming to visit or that a military battle had been won.) And the message, the evangelion, that Jesus had instructed the disciples to proclaim was simple: "The Kingdom of God is at hand for you." Here. Now.

The disciples' journey and their announcement of the coming of the Kingdom — and of the King himself — was the action. But what was bubbling beneath the surface, within the hearts and souls of those early evangelizers? It was their faith in and relationship with Jesus and with one another.

When Jesus sent out those pairs of disciples as "laborers for his harvest," he wanted them to work together, to share their faith, support and encourage one another when the journey was difficult, and to witness to the fact that to be a disciple of Jesus calls for collaboration and community. This is why we see so many saints — including those listed above — working collaboratively to fulfill their mission. This Gospel passage reminds us that living our faith with integrity means that we express what is going on in the depths of our hearts and souls in and through our words and actions. We can't live out our faith or exercise our ministries within a vacuum.

In this passage, we also hear Jesus teaching an important lesson in relationships by urging the disciples to pay attention to the response of the people they were visiting. Yes, they were to share their message about the coming of the Kingdom, but he also wanted them to watch and listen — to be in relationship with the people they visited, to be sensitive to how the Good News was being received and to act accordingly. Keeping this in mind not only helps to be sure that the Gospel is being proclaimed effectively, but it also allows us to be sensitive to the "signs of the times" and the needs of the communities we are called to serve.

In the end, the mission of the disciples was to proclaim the faith they held within their hearts and invite others — all others — to join them in building up God's Kingdom as faithful disciples. Faith and action came together in relationships — the communion and community of the Kingdom of God. The Gospel demands that we, as Christians — collaborating disciples proclaiming our interior faith through our public works of mercy and justice — make ourselves available for the task of making the Kingdom a reality within our families, parishes, communities, and country.

—[Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS](#)

MAY Update AMA 2022: *Thank you to all who have now already pledged a total of \$10,426 - moving us closer to our goal as a parish community of \$13,754. When our parish reaches its goal in paid pledges, 100 percent of the additional funds received will be returned to our parish for its use. As soon as the JUNE update arrives from the Chancery, we'll post it here!*