

Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings

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Is 66: 10-14C; Ps 66: 1-7, 16, 20; Gal 6: 14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20



“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.” That is how our Gospel from Luke begins today. Are you aware that we, too, are sent? We, too, are to represent the Lord in our dealings with others. That is in large part what stewardship is all about — using our gifts to spread the Good News.

Of course, serving the Lord and being true to our faith is not without trials and risks. In the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah, the prophet makes reference to this. However, he also assures us that God is with us at all times, that... “as a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” It is difficult to have a more vivid comparison as a mother comforting a child. Yet, that is the kind of love and care the Lord has for us. He may challenge us and ask us to go out in His name, but He is also with us always and prepared to provide us the love to continue.

There is no question that St. Paul is one of the major apostles and contributors to what the Church is today. Heeding Christ’s instructions as included in today’s Gospel reading, Paul traveled the known world at that time, from Arabia to Damascus to Europe. He visited Jerusalem to see St. Peter, and later was martyred at about the same time as Peter in Rome. Paul’s letter to the Galatians is addressed “to the churches of Galatia,” which indicates he was ministering to several groups in Galatia. Galatia itself is considered by most scholars to be a Roman province in central Asia Minor, which was populated by immigrant Celts around 300 BC.

As is often the case, scholars do not universally agree on exactly which letters were written by Paul, but Catholic scholars tend to attribute 13 books of the New Testament to St. Paul. Estimates range from 25 to 75 percent of the New Testament can be attributed to Paul. However, experts seem to universally agree that the Letter to the Galatians is completely his. Paul’s letters are so rich in content and instruction that it is difficult to summarize them. The Letter to the Galatians seems to have been written to address two issues — the nature of salvation and how that relates to Jewish Law.

Without getting into detail, today’s Second Reading represents these two ideas, in that Paul makes it clear. When Paul closes today’s reading by saying “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,” he is capturing the essence of everything he is trying to teach. He wants the Galatians to know that salvation comes from the grace of God, not from keeping Jewish Law.

Today’s Gospel from Luke relates some important information about Jesus and the early Christians. First of all, it is clear He had more than just 12 followers (the Apostles) as He sends 72 additional people out to prepare the way. The Lord’s statement “The harvest is abundant but the laborers

are few” is a direct statement to each of us. If we accept the image provided, Jesus sees the entire world and all its peoples as the potential harvest. It is as if a farmer had a huge potential crop, but he had no laborers to assist with gathering that crop. We are called to be the laborers. The Lord is reliant upon us, on each and every one of us, to serve as laborers in His vineyard. There are incredible needs among humankind. Each of us probably realizes that but part of our frustration is viewing ourselves as such a small contributor to helping the Lord. Note that all those He sent returned, and they returned with joy and a great sense of satisfaction. They learned that when they did what Jesus told them to do, they could anticipate blessings beyond their expectations.

They also reported to Jesus that they were successful “in your name.” That is what will make us successful as well, keeping our focus on working for the Lord and in the Lord’s name. That is the nature of discipleship and stewardship.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

July 2nd – 10th, 2016

Sat. July 2nd

10:00 a.m.

Weekday

Lynn Macaspac – RIP – by Tammy Gonon

4:30 p.m.

Albert Campomanes – RIP – by Angelina

Sun. July 3rd

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m.

Patrick Owen Dowd – RIP – by the Ladies’ Auxiliary

11:00 a.m.

Patrick Owen Dowd – RIP – by Irene and Rene Vinet

Mon. July 4th

NO MASS

Tues. July 5th

Saint Anthony Zaccaria

7:00 p.m.

Jose Mourelo Sr. – RIP – by the family

Wed. July 6th

Saint Maria Goretti

9:00 a.m.

In Thanksgiving to Saint Anthony – by Rita

Thurs. July 7th

Weekday

9:00 a.m.

In Thanksgiving to Saint Rita – by Rita

Fri. July 8th

Weekday

9:00 a.m.

For the general well-being of the refugees – by Leah

Sat. July 9th

Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

4:30 p.m.

For all Souls in Purgatory

Sun. July 10th

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m.

Anniversary Blessings – by Connie and Jim

11:00 a.m.

Antonio Leite Melo and Maria dos Anjos Serra Melo – RIP – by Maria Ponte

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace*

SAINTLY WISDOM

I have always seen rest as time set aside from daily tasks, never as days of idleness. Rest means recuperation: to gain strength, form ideals and make plans. In other words it means a change of occupation, so that you can come back later with a new impetus to your daily job.

- Saint Josemaría Escrivá, *Furrow n. 514*

"TOGETHER WITH JESUS" FAMILY CONFERENCE



A two-day family conference with the theme "Together with Jesus" will be held on August 6-7 at Loyola High School, 7272 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Montreal. Children ages 4-12 and their families are welcome to join.

This conference is being organized by the **CFC-Kids for Christ**. Registration is \$120.00 per family of three. This includes meals and conference kits. For inquiries please call Allan Distor at [514-213-4868](tel:514-213-4868) or email the secretariat: don-christopher.salvanera@crl.com.

COFFEE SUNDAY



Hosted by the Legion of Mary, everyone is cordially invited to a "Coffee Sunday" on July 10th, after the 11 A.M. Mass at the Church Hall.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



The Be My Disciples Registrations for September 2016 are ready! ALL children of the Parish between the ages of Kindergarten and Grade VI **must be registered in this faith transmission and education program.** Please register immediately so that we can plan (order books, get Catechists, form groups, etc.) for next year. **The deadline is June 26, 2016.** Registrations after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 per person. **Please call Connie Kuhr for Registration & information – 514-747-9347.**



THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"

Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: JULY 9th CAR WASH

CAR WASH for Camp Kinkora! Saturday, July 9th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Our Lady of Fatima Church Parking Lot. Donation: \$7.00.

This CAR WASH is being held by the Youth Choir, in partnership with Couples For Christ who will be selling hotdogs and snacks. All proceeds will help fund a summer camp for children whose parents are unable to afford such an expense. Please pass by and have your car looking like new from the efforts of our Youth Choir working for a good cause.