

Homily. 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.C. 6/7 July 2019.

The message of God in our readings is one so simple and plain that it's disturbing to think why it is that we've found it so hard to receive and implement? The message is this; You can't do it alone. You're not asked to and nor do you have to!

Not even Jesus went at His ministry alone, so why is it we think that we can? In Galilee He called and formed a group of disciples around Him. Only after this had happened did He set out on His crucial journey to Jerusalem with them, accompanied by even larger group of followers. What's more, as we hear this weekend, He sent these out ahead of Him in pairs to prepare for His arrival in the towns and villages along the way. In pairs mind you, not as lone rangers. This is the point we've yet to hear.

The mission of those 72 is ours today; to go out together where the Lord sends us. To be with the people around us right now, opening their hearts, minds and souls to the healing and peace of the Good News of God's love and mercy for us in Christ. It's this that the Church, the gathering of the disciples today, is supposed to be. It's what we as a local Church, a Parish, a community of disciples are aiming towards.

St. Paul with all of his talents and abundant energy knew that he needed to work with others so as to carry out his mission. The same applied to the Saints who always worked in a team, a partnership with advisors, companions in religion, State institutions and various supporters so that they could unveil the vision of God for their times. We need only think of

Mary of the Cross MacKillop with Julian Tension-Woods and the Josephite Sisters, Teresa of Avila with John of the Cross and the Carmelites, and of Francis of Assisi with Clare and the Franciscan Friars, to understand the point of the message.

The call to work with others in the partnership of Gospel-Life does mean that, along with rejoicing in our gifts and talents, we have to admit of our weaknesses and our needs, to be made more complete by what others bring to our ministry. I strongly suspect that its the humble acceptance of this honesty truth about our own limits which makes working in a team so hard for so many of us. Yet, without it, we're asking ourselves to do what neither the Saints nor Jesus tried to do; to go it alone, a method which is open to misdirection and doomed to burnout and failure.

We come together now to these two tables, the Word wherein we are instructed and the Eucharist by which we are nourished. We do this together, as a family of faith, as disciples, partners and friends sharing in the mission given us by our Lord. Let this itself be a lesson to us; that only through co-operation and trust in God and with each other can we carry out what the Lord asks, joyfully bearing the fruit of the Kingdom of God.