

Our Lady Queen of Peace

4696 Notre Dame Lane, House Springs, Mo 63051 636-671-3062

www.olqpparish.org

July 8, 2012



PASTOR

Reverend Michael Murphy

ASSOCIATES

Reverend James Beighlie, C.M.

Reverend Donald F. Molitor, Retired

DEACONS

Reverend Dr. Thomas Gerling

Reverend Mr. Paul Turek, Sr.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Bob Ellison

GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/PRESCHOOL

Ms. Renée Chauvin

PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

PARISH COUNCIL

Thomas Broadbent, Jacob Bufka, Sandee Burkemper,

Joanne David, Bev Gregory, René Heibeck, Dave Mills,

Denise Ortmann, Rich Ortmann, Rebecca Pigue,

Jan Schultheiss, Linda Weber

Parish Office

671-3062

School

671-0247

Cafeteria

375-5335

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm

(Rosary before Mass - Fatima Prayers included on 1st Sat.)

Sunday

7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

Holy Days

as announced

Weekdays

8:00 am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

2nd Monday of each month after 8:00am Mass

ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Monday evening at 7:30pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30am Mass

Make arrangements by calling Parish Office

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45pm or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

As soon as marriage is contemplated, contact one of the parish priests.

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

We rejoice to have you with us, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from college, you need to re-register. Please help us keep our records in order.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Phone _____ # of people registering _____

email address _____

Please circle one: New Registration Address or phone number change Moving out of parish

Upcoming OLQP Parish Events

July

- Mon 9 Vacation Bible School starts - ends 7/12
 Sun 15 Hope Builders
 Sat 21 SVDP Youth Obstacle Course, AA Fields
 Mon 23 Athletic Assoc. Soccer Camp - ends 7/26

August

- Sat 18 Daughters Tailgate Sale
 Sat 18 Knights Fairmont Horse Races

September

- Sat 22 PSR Chili Supper, Cafeteria
 Sun 23 OLQP Quilt Social, Knights Hall

October

- Sat 6 Hoedown
 Sat 13 Harvest Moon Auction, Knights Hall
 Sun 14 Fall Festival, Cafeteria
 Fri 26 Trunk or Treat

November

- Sat 17 Grief Support Retreat
 Thu 22 Thanksgiving

December

- Sat 8 Immaculate Conception
 Tue 25 Christmas

analyzing the financial details and through the use of a survey, that was in last weeks bulletin and sent out through a parish email, we are looking for input from parishioners as to what was good about our picnic and what needs to improve. Thank you to all who made our picnic a success!

Where is OLQP headed?

Over the last two years the OLQP "Mission Advancement" committee, under the guidance of the Archdiocese, developed a strategic plan for the parish. This strategic plan is a response to the feedback received from parishioners from a survey given a year and a half ago. The plan was recently approved by the Parish Council and soon will be formally presented to the parish. It identifies areas where our parish needs to grow and it presents plans and goals that will help that growth happen.

One of the areas that needs to be addressed is the state of the parish finances. In 2011 we barely made ends meet but this year we needed to accept help from the Archdiocese. As part of the strategic plan, the Stewardship Committee was re-instated and is hard at work planning for activities that will take place this fall. We will begin participating in the Stewardship program which will involve educating parishioners about the concept of "tithing" and will also invite parishioners to make a financial commitment to the parish based on spiritual motives.

The Stewardship process also involves a commitment of not just our "treasure", but also our "time" and our "talent". In September, as part of the stewardship activities, there will be a Festival of Ministries which will highlight the work of organizations, programs, committees and groups in our parish. The purpose is to educate people and invite them to get involved. To plan for this event, there will be a meeting on **Monday evening, July 23rd, at 6:30 pm** in the church basement. Every organization in the parish will be asked have a representative present at this meeting. "A Festival of Ministries" can be a huge success or a pathetic failure depending on the amount of energy and effort put into its planning. We are going to do it right.

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish has suffered through difficult times in the past, but it is still here today because of faith filled people who are involved, generous and who refuse to give up or run away. The future of our parish will depend upon a commitment from ALL of us to do the same!

Fr. Mike

FROM the PASTOR

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Picnic Results

With most of the picnic bills turned in, we are able to present the results of this year's parish picnic. The total income was

\$50,119.50. Total expenses were \$34,291.10 leaving us with a net profit of **\$15,828.40**. Our profit margin would have been higher but we invested over \$6,000 into the renovation of the trailer that was used to fry chicken and we purchased several new fryers. We will not have these expenditures next year. The trailer was a HUGE success, increasing our capacity to meet the demand for chicken during the peak dining hours. The trailer will also serve us for future fundraisers such as the Lenten fish dinners and possible monthly chicken (or beef, or pork or squirrel) dinners that we are considering for fund raising purposes. The picnic committee is already at work

Youth Council News

Youth Council Co-Presidents are Rebecca Pigue and Jacob Bufka, our Parish Council youth representatives. Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 10th, at 6 pm.

"IT" Group News:

Never been to Youth Group? We meet every Sunday night from 6 pm - 8 pm in the Cafeteria Meeting room. To become part of "The IT Group" - all you need to do is show up and you're in. All teens in 9th - 12th grade are welcome to join us!

Youth representatives are Christine Gregorc and Alicia Whitehead. No meeting this Sunday, July 8th!!! We'll use this time to enjoy the evening with the family after a great weekend retreat.

Parents: Feel free to keep up with all of the IT happenings online. Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/olqpyouthgroup/

John and Sue Whitehead
314-954-7461

Junior High Youth Group: This group is for those entering 7th and 8th grade in the fall. Our representatives are Ben Pigue and Darby O'Donnell. Mark your calendars for a day filled with fun and community service on Tuesday, July 24th. We will meet at OLQP at 7:50 am and return by 5 pm. We will attend Mass together, then make lunches for the homeless, go on a picnic and bowling. For more detailed information email terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Youth Group News:

St. Vincent de Paul Youth include junior high youth, high school youth and young adults through age 20. Youth representatives are Joey Schlote and Dylan Vancil. They are currently planning an obstacle course on the morning of Saturday, July 21st, to raise funds for the needy in our area.

Faith Sharing Group News: This group is open to junior and seniors in high school that wish to learn more about our Catholic faith in a faith sharing format. This is a youth led faith sharing with adult

support. Youth representatives are Donald Morris and Grace Shannon. They are currently studying the *Catholicism Series* by Rev. Robert Barron. Please join us on Thursday, July 12th, on the lower level of the school building with the basement from 7-8:30 pm.

Venture Crew News: is a youth led co-ed scouting group for high school youth and young adults through age 20, under the Boy Scouts of America. Youth representatives are Mary Ostlund and Ashlyn Mattingly.

Boy Scout News:

The Boy Scouts meet every Tuesday evening in the Church cafeteria. Our youth representative is Ryan La France. They have close to fifteen scouts attending summer camp at Famous Eagle at S-F Scout Ranch in the beginning of July.

Young Adult Group News: is for those out of high school and/or in their twenties. Our representatives are Phoebe and Olivia Heibeck.

Our young adults are busy being active members of our parish in a variety of ways. For example, three young adults volunteered at the Peace Pantry on June 20th, two young adults were chaperones at Venture Crew Camp and three young adults are helping with the retreat at Camp Trinity for our high school youth. All young adults of the parish are invited to join us for an outdoor movie night on Wednesday, July 11th, at 8 pm on the parish grounds. Mark your calendars now and join us on Wednesday, July 11th.

For more information call Terry Ostlund, 314-566-8363, or email terry.ostlund@olqpparish.org.

*Precious Metals Collection
this week, July 7th and 8th.
Thanks for your support.*

*Annie Mattingly Receives
Unconditional Commitment Award
Sunday, August 12, 2 pm*

Ann (Annie) Mattingly has been chosen by our parish as a woman of "Unconditional Commitment". She will be honored by the Archdiocese. The award ceremony is **Sunday, August 12, 2012 at 2:00 pm at Holy Spirit Parish (3130 Parkwood Lane, Maryland Heights, 63043).**



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Daughters of Isabella

The Order of the Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principle of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity. We come together as a sisterhood to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bringing spiritual benefits to our members and contributing to the common good of humanity. By our faith, we are called to serve, be inspired and challenged to do God's work.

Our fundraisers allow us to make donations to various organizations, sponsor a person to go on the Pro-Life Trip and also offer a scholarship to an eighth grade girl who will be attending a Catholic High School. Any practicing Catholic woman who is 16 years of age or older is invited to join the Daughters of Isabella. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in the cafeteria at 7:30 pm.

*IL Ritiro Retreat
September 28th, 7 pm to
September 30, 11:30 am*

"Waning Summer and Cool Breezes, Bless the Lord: An Eco-Spirituality Retreat"

During this Retreat we will reflect upon and celebrate God's loving presence as we find ourselves within the ongoing story of Creation. The gifts of wonder and awe await us as we delight in this holy time of Retreat! A Cosmic Walk will be part of the Retreat experience.

Presenter: Maurice Lange (Director of eco-justice for the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kirkwood, MO).

Cost: \$115 private room ~ \$85 double room
To register: email ilritiro@gmail.com or call 636-274-0554 (Space is limited)

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

We wish to thank **Drain Express**, for being a sponsor for our bulletin. Because of their generosity we do not pay to have our bulletins printed. Please remember to patronize our sponsors when in need of their type of service.



St. Vincent De Paul

Mangia...what a nice invitation - eat. Mangia, it has a hospitable and generous sound - a warm welcome to share a meal. You are saying mangia to a person you do not know every time you share your coins in the Poor Box. The response is spoken though you do not hear it. Grazie, SVDP.

Biblical Facts and Angels...

1. *They are mentioned 23 times in 34 Biblical books.*
2. *They are all created by God.*
3. *They report directly to God.*
4. *They were present at the creation of the world.*
5. *They announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds.*

2012 Picnic Survey

Please take a moment to answer a few questions regarding this year's picnic. Your thoughts and comments are greatly appreciated and will be useful insight into ways to improve our picnic for 2013 and beyond...

Food/Beverage

How was the quality of the Food/Beverage?	Poor	Good	Great	Excellent
Was there a variety of Food/Beverage?	Not Enough		Just Right	Too Much

Comment: _____

Games/Inflatables

Was there a good selection of Games/Inflatables?	Not Enough	Just Right	Too Much
How was the pricing of Games/Inflatables?	Poor	Good	Excellent
Was there something for all ages?	Poor	Good	Excellent
Are you interested in 'Rides'? Estimated Pricing = \$30.00 - 35.00 per wristband			NO YES

Please provide details below:

Comment: _____

Entertainment

Was there plenty of Entertainment throughout the day?	Not Enough	Just Right	Too Much
Was there Entertainment for all ages?	Poor	Good	Excellent

Comment: _____

Shuttles/Parking

Was Shuttles/Parking convenient?	Poor	Good	Great	Excellent
How was the wait for Shuttles?	Poor	Good	Great	Excellent

Your approx. wait time: _____

Was Shuttles/Parking areas & directions clearly marked?	Poor	Good	Great	Excellent
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Comment: _____

What did you like about the picnic?

What needs to be improved about the picnic?

Do you have any comments, ideas, suggestions or constructive criticism that could help us improve our picnic next year?

Return completed survey to the Parish Office by Tuesday, July 10th, (slip through mail slot if no one is there or mail it) or place it in the Sunday Collection basket or the "Picnic Survey Box" in the church lobby. The survey can also be filled out on-line by logging on to our parish website: www.olqpparish.org

Thank You!

*Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 9th thru
Thursday, 12th*

From 6 to 7:30 pm

For ages 5 - 11

Cost: \$25 per child

*Registration forms are available
in the parish office or after Masses.*

Questions please call:

Christine, 636-640-3561

*St. Vincent De Paul Youth
A Great Big Thank You...*

Thank you to everyone who gave donations to our Bake Sale! We made a wonderful \$489! Your generosity is overwhelming. This money will provide backpacks and school supplies to children in Jefferson County. The St. Vincent de Paul Youth will be working at the Back to School Fair to help pass out the supplies.

God bless you all so much!

SVDP Youth

*Retrouvaille of St. Louis
A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages
You Can Help Your Marriage*

25% of surveyed couples say they are "Happily Married". For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking only make it worse? Do you hope for a better, more fulfilling marriage? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230 toll free. The next program in St. Louis begins the weekend of September 21 - 23. Married couples are welcome at Retrouvaille whether or not they are Catholic. We will gladly work with people who have financial difficulties.

Seven Days of Inspiration

Take one a day...
and feel great all week!

You're making progress.
Just believe.

~~~~~  
All good things in life  
are still yours to enjoy!

~~~~~  
There's no reason
you won't succeed!

~~~~~  
You're a VIP!  
You are someone's world.

~~~~~  
You are beautiful in
every way that counts.

~~~~~  
Life is about to  
get so much better!

~~~~~  
Do something that makes
you happy, and happiness
will become a habit.

*Il Ritiro Retreat Center
Mass of Anointing of the Sick*

The Franciscan Community of Il Ritiro, Dittmer, has a 10 am Mass for Anointing of the Sick the fourth Sunday of every month at its Chapel of Our Lady of the Cedars. All those who are sick and in need of reception of this healing Sacrament are invited to come.

"By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayers of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them". (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Il Ritiro Retreat is located in Dittmer on Eime Road and St. Francis Lane. For additional information, please call, 636-274-1736.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is
 Wednesday, July 25th,
 from 1:00 – 8:00 pm.

Come visit with Jesus. He is waiting for you in the Eucharist. His love flows from Him, saturating you completely. In the stillness of the sanctuary, in the Presence of Christ, offer your heart.

***Annual Outdoor Novena to
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel***

The Annual Outdoor Novena will be held from Sunday, July 8th, through Monday, July 16th at the Carmelite Monastery (9150 Clayton Road). The theme for this year is John Paul II's encyclical, Mother of the Redeemer. Services each evening include Marian Music beginning at 6:45 pm followed by Rosary and Benediction at 7:15 pm in the air conditioned Chapel. Mass is celebrated at 8 pm each evening in the Garden of Carmel.

BINGO
Every Friday Night
Knights of Columbus Hall
Doors Open at 4:30 pm
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm

***Absent from the body present with our Lord.
 In your kindness pray for the repose of the soul***

Ed Wessel, Jr., cousin of Ralph Schultheiss
 May God welcome him home, fill him with peace,
 and bless those who will miss him.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

Contribution totals were not available because of the early bulletin deadline.

Scrip Gift Cards are available in the Parish Office from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.

**Stewardship
 Start With Prayer**

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” Ezekiel 2:2-3

God sends each of us to do some special work for Him. And, He gives us all the talents that we need to do that work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and give our time to do the work God asks of us? This is the basis for good stewardship.

St. Patrick's Old Rock Church
Annual Picnic
Sunday, August 19, 11 am - 6 pm
Mass at 11:15 am

St. Theodore (Flint, MO)
Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, July 15

Our famous Fried Chicken and Roast Beef Dinners will be served family style from 11:30 am until 7:00 pm. The menu also includes mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, slaw, tomatoes, bread, cake, iced tea and coffee. Carry-outs and drive-thru service are also available. Meal prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children age 4-10, children age 3 and under eat free in the dining room. Other attractions include the Country Store, Quilt Stand, Craft Stand, Games, Live Music and much, much more. Our shady picnic grounds are located at 2016 Grothe Road, 3 miles north of Wentzville. We are just 45 minutes from downtown St. Louis. For directions or more information, please call the parish office, 636-332-9269.

Parish Activities

Mon July 9 Rosary for Vocations after 8 am Mass
 Vacation Bible School begins 6 - 7:30 pm
 Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
 Tues July 10 Devotions after 8 am Mass
 Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm
 No Parish Council meeting
 Thur July 12 Vacation Bible School ends
 Sun July 15 Hospitality Sunday
 Hope Builders Week begins

Mass Intentions

Mon July 9 8:00 am John Molini
 Tues July 10 8:00 am Vince Ferrara
 Wed July 11 8:00 am Warren and Bernice Dierks
 Thurs July 12 8:00 am Trudy Schrader
 Fri July 13 8:00 am Jeanette Ellison
 Sat July 14 5:00 pm Frederic Fleming
 Sun July 15 7:30 am People of the Parish
 9:30 am Alan Blecha
 11:30 am Anna Ade Intentions

July 14th and 15th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm *Christine Camden, Clay Gregorc, Bev Gregory,
 Peggy Mikko, *Richard Ortmann,
 Shirley Tenny, Katie Tutass
 7:30 am Gerald Bachmann, Ken Bohnert, *Andrea
 Lawson, Ann Riley, Michael & Joyce Ruopp,
 *Joyce Stenger
 9:30 am Dale Andrews, *Fran Corley, *Joanne David,
 Carol Delue, Margaret Gerling, Barb Perez,
 Sharon Reineri, Len Reinhardt
 11:30 am Debbie Cleek, Angie & *Tom Ecker, Joan Ross,
 *Tom Mattingly, Lynette & Patrick Rawlins

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

Proclaimers

5:00 pm Barb & Joe Nenninger
 7:30 am Vicki De Long, Pat Hanes
 9:30 am Helen Salamone, Jo Ann Vess
 11:30 am John Holmes, Maria Webb

Servers

5:00 pm Brent Ambrose, Reagan Becnel, Joe Wigge
 7:30 am McKenzie Beck, Cameron Gerber, Jane Kenney
 9:30 am Nicole Diener, John Myers, Noah Sudholt
 11:30 am Kiersten Hahn, Sarah Marting, Claire Webb

Ushers

5:00 pm Bill & Donna Clifton, Ralph Munzlinger,
 Ken Ganey, Ben Slodkowski, Helen Stewart
 7:30 am Carl Boyer, Robert De Long, Wally Freihaut,
 Ted Hempfen, Steve Morlock, Vince Rocchio
 9:30 am Thomas Broadbent, Tim Diffey, Lee Hoffman,
 Al Jensen, Jerry Sheets, Larry Whitworth
 11:30 am Larry Bottchen, Don Brooks, Gary Freihaut,
 P. McDonnell, Andy Nappier, Richard Rousseau

*Please pray for those who are ill
 (parishioners are in bold)*

Frieda Siebel-Spath Maria Stonecypher
Maryann Barnett Audrey Hastings
Lenore Burns Jackie Nappier
Rose Ficken Debra Emery
Ray Wieschhaus

Fr. Wesloh
 Tom Cope, cousin of Jan Schultheiss
 Harold Clifton, cousin of Tom Ecker
 Donald Urban, brother of Joan Shannon
 Alice Schwing, friend of Tom & Sue Alt
 Bob Cranston, friend of Tom & Sue Alt
 Jean Breckle, friend of Margaret Myer
 Jack Beine, son-in-law of Maryann Barnett
 Pam Szolga, sister of Frank Saggio
 Lucy Alma DeClue, mother of Ken DeClue
 Mildred Lester, mother of Kathy Constantz
 Nancy Malpocker, niece of Lee & Kay Hoffman
 George Bagot, cousin of John Bokern

~those serving in the military, the homebound,
 shut-ins of the parish and all in nursing homes. To
 add a name please call the Parish Office, 671-3062.
 Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

*Parish Office email
parishoffice@olqpparish.org
 OLQP Web Site
www.olqpparish.org
 submit articles for bulletin
olqpbulletin@yahoo.com
 Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm*



Marie Strayhorn,
 Debby Maloney-Reeves,
 Nancy Wilfong
 and Lee Hoffman

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B**



THEME: To Follow Jesus Involves Sacrifice.

A young couple anticipates the birth of a first child with joy. Changing diapers, midnight feedings, caring for a sick child are the hard realities that follow. A high school graduate looks forward to college, to following a course of studies and preparing for a successful and happy career. Along the way there are papers to write, exams to pass, long sessions of study.

The readings for the Fifteen Sunday in Ordinary Time ask us to consider and again commit to the difficulties in living our decision to follow Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the joy and peace we experience as members of the believing community are bought at a price, the price of saying “yes” to God and His will for us, even when saying “yes” involves sacrifice, involves stepping outside of ourselves and our comfort zones for the sake of following Jesus and continuing His mission.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Amos 7:12-15

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Amos. Amos was a simple farmer from the southern kingdom of Judah. He lived in the time of the divided monarchy, a time of division between brothers. He lived in a time when leaders in the northern kingdom of Israel attempted to consolidate their power and forge a unity for their kingdom by creating shrines to rival the centrality of Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem.

Amos has been called the prophet of social justice, a man who spoke out against the abuses of power encountered in the northern kingdom, a man who saw that the taxing of the poor to maintain the power structure would eventually subvert the whole structure of the northern kingdom and bring it crashing down. Amos was a simple farmer, a resident of the south, but God’s call to him was to leave home behind and take up the cause of the covenanted brothers and sisters in the northern kingdom. He was called by God to respond to injustice inflicted on others who claimed to be part of God’s Chosen People. His call was uncomfortable, even unwelcome. He was not the cause of the injustice suffered by the common people of the north. Yet his relationship with our revealing God impelled him to speak out, to decry injustice, to point to the inevitable end that a corrupt system would always meet. When he spoke out, his words did not fall on receptive ears and his message won him scorn. But when people hurt, especially when people hurt because they were victimized by others, the prophet Amos could not be silent.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

The second reading is taken from the Letter to the Ephesians. The reading from Ephesians is a kind of Christological Hymn, a celebration of who Jesus Christ is for us. In Christ, we have been endowed with all blessing so that through Christ we are destined for adoption, we become God’s sons and daughters. The reason for our blessing and election is that, through Christ God may bring all things into a unity, that all may enjoy the blessings we share in Christ.

The Ephesians hymn stresses our oneness in Christ, but this oneness is not a matter of private enjoyment. Rather, it is a step along the way in fulfilling God’s plan to bring unity to all creation in His Son. If the hymn celebrates what Christ has accomplished for us, if it celebrates our oneness in Christ, then, in that oneness with Christ, we can also expect that God will work through us to bring all creation to unity according to His will and plan. We, too, have a role to play.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 6:7-13

The Gospel reading is Mark's story of Jesus sending out the Twelve to participate in His mission. There are a number of significant features in this reading. Jesus sent His disciples out two-by-two. Ministry in the Church is not a private matter, but a communal endeavor. Secondly, He gave the Apostles authority over unclean spirits. In the Gospels, the unclean spirits regularly function as symbols for all that is opposed to God and His will for salvation. Power over unclean spirits is typically conjoined with the ability to heal. Mark, with the other evangelists, suggests that what is evil in the world, what opposes God's revealing and saving Word is that which hurts people. Followers of Jesus are sent to ease suffering, to stand against what hurts people and, in so doing, with Jesus, to announce the nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven. Thirdly, Jesus' instructions to those He sends seem strange. They are told not to take along on their journey what travelers would normally carry. Being sent in pairs to support each other, they can only wear sandals and bring along a walking stick, those things that provide basic support for a traveler. For the rest, they are to find support among those whom they visit. There is a subtle implication here – the apostles are to be one with those to whom they are sent to minister. They are not to carry along those things that would make them independent of those to whom they are sent. It isn't preparation, credentials, material goods that can set us apart from others that bring success to our mission, but rather identification with other people, oneness with them as people seeking the truth, seeking God's love and salvation. And finally, the success of our mission does not depend on us. We go to do what Jesus did, just as the apostles did, but the possibility remains that people will not accept what we have to say, that they will not accept us as one with them, that we will find no reception and support among them.

In the end, the apostles went off just as Jesus commanded them and had success. They made a stand against the forces of evil in the world. But we can also understand that they were not universally successful, that some people and some towns did not want to listen to them. Not everyone accepted Jesus either. Still, Jesus always understood what He said and did as a ministry and partnership with His Father and the mission of the apostles here is presented as a ministry of the believing community in partnership with Jesus. In concrete terms, we are told how to stand against injustice and evil, we are told how to work together within the believing community, we are told how to approach announcing the Kingdom of Heaven by identifying ourselves with those to whom we are sent, by identifying ourselves with them, not only in terms of our common humanity, but by the realization that in God's will and plan we are children of a common Father, that we are one with others as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

The readings today offer a meditation on the call to discipleship, the call to be prophetic voices against those things in the world that stand against God's will and plan for universal salvation and reconciliation. We are asked to consider that evil in our world is that which hurts other people and we are called to be God's voice speaking against such suffering and oppression. But we are also called to recognize that being a follower of Jesus, that accepting His summons to be sent forth into the world in His name involves paying a price, the price of accepting responsibility for our world, the price of leaving what is safe and comfortable behind, the price of putting aside whatever sets apart from others for the sake of reaching people on the common ground of shared human experience and the belief in our common humanity as children of God. Only in this oneness with others can the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven be advanced.

FOR REFLECTION:

- What are experiences in my life that I began with great anticipation and joy and then discovered that they demanded commitment and work? Were these experiences worth what they demanded? What, in me, did I have to let go of the have these experiences?
- When, like Amos, have I been asked to stand against injustice and evil in the world? How did this set me at odds with others? Did I accept the challenge? Did I have success? What evils in the world now could I be speaking out against? Would I be heard?
- Have I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior? Who is Jesus Christ for me? Am I tempted to see my relationship with God as a purely private matter? Do I accept that challenge that saying "yes" to God brings me into a relationship with others and gives me responsibility for others?
- St. Vincent de Paul once said, "May the poor forgive us for the good we do for them." How do I understand this saying in the light of Jesus' strange instructions to His disciples as He sent them out? In the way I live, in what I say to the world, in how I treat others - is the Kingdom of God brought nearer by me?