

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C 2019
Isa 66.10-14///Galatians 6. 14-18///Luke 10.1-12,17-20

→long ago, those going on a journey to unknown places depended on experienced local guides, hired along the way, to lead them to where they needed to go.

→ancient sailors learned to navigate the seas, plotting their course by the stars and sky

→[and] eventually explorers devised the compass, and recorded their collective knowledge on maps for others to follow

→.....today...we rely on satellite controlled GPS systems in our cars and on our phones to tell us how to get from one place to another.

→these devices can map out the road ahead...locate restaurants and gas stations, predict the weather and make hotel accommodations...

→long gone are the days of anxious and weary pilgrims, facing danger and uncertainty at every turn.

→and so, today's instructions of Jesus to his disciples might be a bit unfamiliar to our ears and sensibilities.....

→but more so, today's gospel reading is not only about the disciples finding their way into the neighboring towns and villages...it is also about putting into practice what they had seen and lived in the actions of Jesus...

→in a word, today's gospel reading is about the disciples being charged with going out and telling the story of Jesus Christ....

PAUSE

→we hear the familiar story of Jesus sending the 72 to proclaim the good news----
to tell the story of Jesus Christ

→and when you think about it...we all have a story....in fact many stories.... to
tell about ourselves

→our families have story's---and a history

→look at the cross, the mosaic, this building →there is a story behind all
of it...

→this past week, we remembered the story of our nation...as we
celebrated the 4th of July holiday

→and, likewise, as Christians we also have story to tell

→it's the same story that J. sent the 72 out to tell all the nations

PAUSE

→we have all been commissioned by our baptism to tell the story of Jesus to all
people and to one another

→to tell and to show that God lives with and within each of us

→and so, in essence, we face a very similar challenge that the 72 faced in today's
gospel ----- to tell the story of Jesus Christ

→therefore, I believe, it is very crucial///very important///vital as to “**how**” we tell

THIS STORY...

→how we tell the story of Christ to one another and how we make the story
present and real in our own lives....

→and in today's world... **THAT** is becoming a challenge for all of us each and every day.....

PAUSE

→as members of the Church today...as followers and disciples of Christ we truly need to recapture the understanding of "HOW" Christ is present in our lives

→and the presence of Christ in our lives is not something we should fear, or be guilty of, or be afraid of, but rather it is something that we should rejoice in, that we should celebrate, that we should be glad for

→AND I BELIEVE THAT, IS EXACTLY THE POINT OF J.'s VERY LAST WORDS AT THE END OF TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

→when the missionaries came back from their success, they were amazed and rejoiced in the fact that their message was gaining acceptance

-----AND AT THAT POINT J. gives them a gentle reminder to temper their enthusiasm

---he says: "do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you...but rejoice because your names are written in heaven"

----- fundamentally ...what Jesus is telling the 72 is: do not rejoice in what you have done-----rejoice in what and who you are"

→rejoice that you are the children of God, that your names are inscribed in heaven because of your baptism

→AND THAT is the core of the message for you and me today

/////Christ is present among us because of who we are,...because we are believers in his message and because we have been baptized

→and beyond that we really don't need to do anything to make Christ more present in us....he already is...however our job, our task and challenge....is to make ourselves more aware of Christ's presence in us

→...and the best way to do that is

--by truly becoming witnesses to his message

--by standing up for what is right and just

--and by encouraging, supporting, and urging one another to live our lives according to the Gospel values and teachings of Christ

PAUSE

→the most profound way we lead ourselves and others to Christ is simply by being imitators of Jesus Christ....

→because when we act in this way, I believe, then we manifest his message

→and to be an imitator of Christ means to bestow forgiveness when we've wronged someone///

it means to ask for healing when we have been hurt

compassion and understanding, when we have sinned

→THAT is the way we bring Christ to others AND to ourselves

PAUSE

....we need to live our lives realizing all the pain and ugliness and sin that goes with it as well as the love and forgiveness and healing that is part of life as well

→because by doing so, then we tell the story of Christ...the story of Christ who lives among us as we are

→there really is no map, no GPS system, no App on our phone that is going to lead anyone of us on our journey to Jesus Christ better than ourselves

→.....and with the way the world is today.....this story needs to be told...

and....who better is there.....to tell it, to live it and to show the story of Jesus Christ to the world other than you and me.....