

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Homily – 07-06-2025

“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.”

Many people in our day and age have left the Catholic Church, especially over the past fifty or so years, which grieves the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and it should grieve our hearts as well.

I guess some people claim to be scandalized by all the sins of the clergy. I can understand that.

I suppose some of these people just don't think the Church is relevant to their lives. Considering all the poor catechesis over the last fifty years I can hardly blame them.

Maybe some people even think they hate the Catholic Church but in reality I suspect most of them have no idea what the Church really teaches.

Bishop Fulton Sheen expressed it best when he said, “There are not over a hundred people in the United States who really hate the Catholic Church. There are millions, however, who hate what they wrongly believe to be the Catholic Church – which is, of course, quite a different thing.”

“These millions could hardly be blamed for hating Catholics because Catholics ‘adore statues’; because they ‘put the Blessed Mother on the same level with God’; because they say

'indulgence (and I might add, confession) is a permission to commit sin'; because the Pope 'is a Fascist';" and the list goes on and on...

He continues, "If the Church taught or believed any one of these things it should be hated, but the fact is the Church does not believe nor teach any one of them."

"It follows then that the hatred of the millions is directed against error and not against truth. As a matter of fact, if we Catholics believed all of the untruths and lies which were said against the Church, we probably would hate the Church a thousand times more than they do."

So we can never give up. "If the hatred of the Church is founded on erroneous beliefs, it follows that the basic need of the day is instruction. Love depends on knowledge for we cannot aspire nor desire the unknown."

In other words, we cannot really love what we ourselves do not know, and we can't expect anyone else to do so either.

We can't give what we don't have so we need to learn our faith even more so that we can bring others to the knowledge of the faith.

If everyone knew the true teachings of the Catholic Church and why she teaches what she does very few people, if any

would really hate her and fewer still if any would ever leave her and we wouldn't have enough room for those trying to get in.

Dr. Jordan Peterson, one of the premier thinkers and philosophers of our day, summed it up very well.

He said, and I'm paraphrasing here, one of the reason why I am a staunch admirer of Christianity, in its Catholic form let's say, which is arguably the most traditional form, is that, I think that Catholicism is as sane as it gets.

Most people just don't know that side of Catholicism but if they did, I think almost everybody would want to be Catholic.

They just haven't realized it yet and we need to be the ones to show them.

We are the laborers, and the harvest is abundant, so we need to learn our faith more and go out into the community and invite all those people in who want to be Catholic but just don't know it yet.

The harvest is abundant but unfortunately the laborers are few.

So, let's start to change that today. Right here in our little town of Standish/Alger.