14th.Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (July 3, 2022): Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20.

**“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest”.**

Today’s Gospel indicates to us that, every Christian is sent by Christ into the world as a messenger of Hope and love. **The “World” here means the area in which I live, my place of work, the people I meet every day, and so on.** Hence an active concern for the world and for the people is an essential mark of a good Christian. In short, we are all responsible for some small corner of the Lord’s vineyard where it is up to us to reap the harvest.

**In the 1st reading,** Isaiah sees the city of Jerusalem as the prototype of the rejoicing Church—the Church who comforts her children, **“as a mother comforts her baby son.”** He assures his listeners that they live in the certainty of Yahweh’s promises of love, protection, prosperity and salvation.

**In the 2nd reading,** Paul clearly teaches that it is Jesus’ death on the cross which brings us salvation. Moreover, he reminds us that every Christian is called to be a **“new creature,”** and that the mission of each member of the Church is to bear witness to the saving power of the cross of Christ through a life of sacrificial, self-giving service, which would bring the treasures of God's kingdom to the poor and needy.

**Then in the Gospel,** in Jesus’ commissioning of 72 disciples to preach the Gospel in towns and villages in preparation for his visit, Luke describes, the fulfillment of the prophetic promise made by Isaiah**.** **“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest”, says the Lord.**

**Significance:** The over 1.5 billion Christians in the world today have the same mission to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the other over 4.5 billion non-Christians. However, Jesus knew that such ministry would not be easy, when he fore-warned us, and posterity by saying: **“See I am sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves…”** Thus to be an ambassador, to go out on mission, to do our share to complete the Master’s work, will surely lead us to the cross as well.

**Life Message:** So, the harvest is indeed rich, for those who have eyes to see it. Most of the time we do see it, but it’s just that we don’t have the kind of heart to respond to it. We make excuse: **“I have no time. I have so much to do…”** is the usual chorus we sing. And so the harvest isn’t reaped. Yet for Jesus, especially in our modern world, the harvest is great, the opportunities many, and the time ripe**. It exists in our institutions: in our hospitals, homes, schools, prisons, workplaces. How many are deeply wounded and in need of healing? How many are without hope? How many without faith and love? Everyday and everywhere, there is a harvest to be reaped for Christ!**

**Conclusion: Mother St. Teresa says:** “Many today are starving for ordinary bread, but that’s not the only kind of hunger there is. There is the hunger to be wanted, to be loved, to be recognized. Nakedness too is not just the want of clothes. It is also the loss of dignity, loss of purity, loss of respect. And homelessness is not only lack of an abode, but of being rejected, and unloved in a throwaway society.”

Therefore, every Christian is sent into the world by Christ. But how few of us see our faith in this light! We tend to think of Faith as something to which we cling for our own sake only, like a life jacket, instead of seeing it as a call to the service of God and our neighbor. We rather leave that for those we call the “Specialists”-the Priests, Nuns, Missionaries, and maybe a few volunteers. Note that the people Christ sent out were no specialists-ordinary people to go and accomplish extraordinary things. Yes, they became his instruments, co-workers with him in spreading the Kingdom of God. We can also do a little. We can’t be everywhere, but we can be somewhere. There are things **only** we can do for Christ which will otherwise remain undone. There are other places **only** we can go; situations **only** we are aware of; and doors that will open **only** to us. Let’s be encouraged by St. Paul in 2Tim.4:2**-“Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not; rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching”.**