

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C 2022
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 by 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...

→[and] this weekend, we will remember 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

→by our baptism we have all been commissioned 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

→and so....it is very crucial///important and 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 more of a challenge for all of us each and every day.....

PAUSE

→as members of the Church today...as believers and disciples of Christ we truly need to recapture the understanding of "HOW" Christ is present to us

→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, that you have been chosen to be a beacon of good news!

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

/////Christ is with us because of who we are,...and our task and challenge as disciples....is to make ourselves and each other more aware that Christ dwells within 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 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

→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

→.....but the way the world is today...the challenges we face as a country, people, and members of the Church.....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 one another....other than you and me.....