

Reflection Questions

- Recall the people who have played key roles in shaping your recovery:
 - What was it about them or their message that appealed to you?
 - How did they approach you?

- Recall moments when you have shared the hope and good news of recovery with others:
 - How did you go about it?
 - How were you affected by the experience?

Being of Service in Catholic in Recovery

Service to others is an essential part of recovery and making progress in the spiritual life. Here are a few ways to be of service in CIR or other recovery groups:

- Attend meetings regularly
- Offer your phone number to another member
- Drive someone to a meeting
- Take a service position
- Co-facilitate a virtual meeting
- Stay after the meeting & connect with a newcomer

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

2nd Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The darkness of our past blends with the joy of our recovery to give us all we need to share hope with our fellows still suffering. Witnessing others find freedom from the bondage of lust addiction adds meaning and value to our lives. Recovery is a gift that can only be kept if we are willing to give it away. It can seem counter-intuitive to consider how we might help others when we feel that we are desperately in need of help ourselves. As we are learning, service is an element of recovery that cannot be overlooked.

Discussions are often had about how the Church can grow and appeal to people currently not participating in the sacraments. We have found that sharing experience, strength, and hope with those who are willing to receive it is a very effective way to inspire change. We recognize that God has all the power and that service and evangelization happen according to His agenda.

This Sunday's Gospel Reading tells the story of Jesus commissioning a large group of disciples who are to go out "like lambs among the wolves" and share the good news. Jesus tells the crowd, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Jesus then directs the group:

*"Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;
and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter, first say,
'Peace to this household.'
If a peaceful person lives there,
your peace will rest on him;
but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is
offered to you,
for the laborer deserves his payment.
Do not move about from one house to another.
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, e
at what is set before you,
cure the sick in it and say to them,
'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"*

In a similar way, we maintain our recovery from lust addiction, sexual compulsions, and other unhealthy attachments by sharing the hope of our spiritual awakening with others while practicing 12-step principles in all our affairs. We do not take it personally when someone is not ready to change, even when the person is a family member or close friend. Instead, we focus our time on those who might be willing now and await a moment where we can be most effective to another in the future.

At times, Christians have shifted away from the humble form of evangelization described by Jesus. His approach is consistent with that of the Twelfth Step as we typically go out in pairs when tending to someone looking for help. We are sharing the good news of a *we* program and the joys of Christian fellowship. Even our aid to others should not be done in isolation.

Our message is a peaceful one, not one which points the finger or condemns the lost individual. We've been in their shoes and, if they are ready, our peace will rest upon them. As we may know, desperation is a state-of-mind that can lend itself to surrender and new life. Ask questions and listen rather than caving into the temptation to share everything you know.

This Sunday's Gospel Reading concludes with Christ's laborers rejoicing in their harvest. We believe we can access the same wonderful power if we stay close to him and seek his direction:

*"Lord, even the demons are subject to us
because of your name."
Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall
like lightning from the sky.
Behold, I have given you the power
to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions
and upon the full force of the enemy
and nothing will harm you.
Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are
subject to you,
but rejoice because your names are written in
heaven."*