

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The darkness of our family's past blends with the new life of our recovery to give us all we need to share hope with our fellows still suffering. Getting to see newcomers to our fellowship grasp family recovery principles and approach challenges in a new way adds meaning and value to our own recovery and keeps us practicing the same principles. It might seem counter-intuitive to consider how we might help others when we feel that we are desperately in need of help ourselves. Giving comfort to families of addicts and alcoholics is an element of recovery that cannot be overlooked at any stage.

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 other families 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,
eat 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 and build our own recovery 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.

Reflection Questions

At times, we find ourselves in a place where we are not sure if we are ready to move forward. We have 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.

Our message is a peaceful one, not one which points the finger or condemns the lost family. 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.

When we are in a place where we are not sure if we are ready to move forward, we find ourselves in a place where we are not sure if we are ready to move forward. We have 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.

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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

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