

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 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,
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 our recovery from addictions, compulsions, and attachments by sharing a message 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

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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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