**14th Sunday Ordinary, Cycle. C. 2025.**

Once a priest while preaching at the Church, asked some students what they thought was the most important part of the Church building. A young lady responded, “**The ex**it”. The priest suspected that it was a sarcastic remark against his long sermons and about boring rituals. So he asked her, “***Tell me frankly. Why do you think the exit is the most important part”?*** She replied, “***Because only after we leave the Church do we get to do what we are supposed to be doing, like helping people.***” She was correct. The best part of the mass, as we always think, is the final dismissal: “**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”.** Mass comes from the Latin word “Missa”, which means to be sent. Whatever we do here in the Church is simply a preparation, a rehearsal or practice for what we would be performing on the life stage.

A Christian is one who is sent out as a missionary. Every one of us by Baptism and Confirmation has received this mark of Jesus, a sign of belonging to Christ’s’ missionary group. We have committed ourselves to Jesus’ cause and we have a mandate from the Lord to go and give witness Jesus in the world. This is clear from the Gospel Reading today.

**In Today’s Gospel, we find Jesus sends and commissions his disciples for an adventurous pioneering of evangeliza**tion. While sending the 72, He reminds them of the daunting task ahead of them and the tremendous opposition they are going to face. He tells them plainly that he was sending them out like lambs among the w**olves. That wasn’t encouraging. They were asked to lead the radical lifestyle of renunciation and austerity,** and must be contented with whatever is offered to them in their mission journey.. He sends them out in pairs. He called each one individually but did not send any apostle out alone. There are two incidents in the Gospels when an apostle went out alone. One was to betray him and the other ended up denying him. Community support is essential to liv9jng the Gospel.

On their return the disciples are delighted at the success of their mission. But Jesus counsels them to rejoice, not because of their successful mission, but because their names are written in heaven. If they rejoice only on account of the success of their mission, what will happen to their joy when their mission fails? Jesus plainly tells them that even on such occasions they must remain happy because their names are (written) registered as citizens of heaven.

The Gospel stretches itself between two phrase, viz, “**Come and see” and “Go and tell”**. “If you have come and seen, you will want to go and tell”. To be involved in the work of the Lord is to be involved with others having a similar vison. The whole body of Christ must be involved in the exercise. This does not mean that everybody should be doing the same thing. There are ministries and missions; there are gifts, talents and charisms. The gift of some is in organizing; of others in prayer ministries; of others in ministering to the sick, the marginalized or the least of our brethren.

The words at the end of **todays’ Gosp**el are addressed to each one of us. “***See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you…rejoice that your names are written in Heaven”*** (Lk: 10 18-20). Jesus does give his power. We are empowered to do his work in his name. We are sent with authority. We have the power if we are willing to supply the good will. Jesus assures us that we have the **passport, visa and “green card” for the city of Heav**en where our names are already registered there. Let us do the job.