

Homily Summary – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Summary:

As we return to Ordinary Time, the Scriptures call us to grow closer to God and receive His peace, love, and joy. God comforts us like a tender mother (Isaiah), and Jesus sends us out like the 72 disciples (Luke), carrying His peace into the world. The key to this relationship is *prayer from the heart* and *daily Scripture*. When we speak honestly with God and listen to His Word, we grow in intimacy with Him and become missionaries of His love. Through prayer, confession, and Scripture, our hearts are renewed and we bring joy to others—just like Mary, our model and mother.

Main Points:

1. God's Comfort Is Personal and Tender

- God desires to comfort us like a mother (Isaiah 66:13).
- He promises joy after hardship when we stay close to Him.

2. Disciples Are Sent with Peace, Not Power

- The 72 were sent by Jesus to share what they had received (Luke 10:1–12, 17–20).
- We, too, are called to carry His peace into a hurting world.

3. Prayer Is the Foundation of Relationship with God

- Honest, personal prayer is real and powerful—even if we feel upset with God.
- God wants your heart, not just your words.

4. Daily Scripture Deepens Our Knowledge of Jesus

- Reading the Bible regularly helps us encounter Jesus and talk with Him.
- “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” (St. Jerome).

5. Mary Shows Us How to Live Close to Jesus

- Mary was filled with peace, love, and joy because of her closeness to Jesus.
 - Through prayer and trust, we can live the same way.
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Scripture References:

- **Isaiah 66:10–14** – God comforts us like a mother.
 - **Psalms 66:1–7, 16, 20** – “Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.”
 - **Luke 10:1–12, 17–20** – Jesus sends out the 72 with peace.
 - **Matthew 6:6** – “Go into your room and pray to your Father in secret.”
 - **James 4:8** – “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”
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Catechism References:

- **CCC 2567** – “God calls man first... prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation.”
- **CCC 2659** – “We pray because we are full of need.”
- **CCC 2709** – Contemplative prayer is silence, listening, and loving dialogue.
- **CCC 2705** – Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire.
- **CCC 1422–1498** – On the Sacrament of Confession and the joy of forgiveness.

Reflection Questions:

1. **Have I experienced God's comfort during a time of suffering? What was that like?**
2. **Am I sharing God's peace and joy with others like the 72 disciples?**
3. **Do I talk to God every day in my own words? If not, what's holding me back?**
4. **How often do I read Scripture? What small habit could I start today?**
5. **Do I need to go to Confession to receive the peace and joy I'm missing?**

Challenge for the Week:

- Read a short passage from the **Gospel of Matthew** every day this week.
- Talk to God honestly about what's on your heart.
- Ask Mary to help you stay close to Jesus, just as she did.

Rhyme Summary:

God invites you to be close friends. Pray and receive the grace He sends. Tell Him anything on your heart, when you pray, that's the best place to start. Jesus loves you so very much. Let Him in, your heart to touch. Read God's Word and watch things grow, Then God's grace will really flow.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>