

15th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Marching Onward is our Call

A reflection from Brian Wigger, Pastoral Associate

At the end of Mass the priest/deacon dismisses us from the liturgy by commissioning us to glorify the Lord with our lives and we are then sent out into the world. As followers of Christ we come to church to worship Him, to love Him, to receive Him into our lives. We listen and learn from His teaching in scripture, we fuel our bodies and souls from the Eucharist. We prepare ourselves to do His work, to live our Christian lives. Then every Sunday, we are sent into the world as the twelve are summoned and sent in this weekend's Gospel.

How prepared do you feel, right now, to go?

We go in pairs, to support each other, protect each other, one working one praying. We should take very little, the clothes you're wearing are fine, you don't need any more. Don't take money, leave your credit cards behind, you will be provided for, and if you are not then leave, move on. Tell people to correct their ways, fight evil when you find it, cure the sick. *Are you ready to do this?*

Think how the disciples felt; they had come to Christ to learn, and now after only a few months with Him, they are about to leave him for a short time to do the work He has been doing, they are being sent out by Christ with His authority. Fear and terror mixed with Christ's peace and grace. Divine gifts and human weaknesses.

We are told in only one small sentence about their successes, they cast out many devils and anointed and cured many. We can only assume we are missing out on many stories similar to those we hear throughout the Gospels, Acts and the letters of the New Testament.

It's difficult to compare ourselves to these men. To the men who walked with Christ, ate with Christ, who were chosen by Christ to build his Church and teach his message. But that is us! We are called to walk with Christ, to eat with Christ and to teach his message.

He choose you and I to be set apart from the world but still very much in it. He choose us to be spotless, not through our actions but through his forgiveness. He choose you and me, to be His daughter or His son. He choose you to live with Him in love.

In all honesty, our world is in need of our teaching, our love, and our service. There are many out there who don't understand our Church, who have never heard in their hearts the call of Christ. There are many out there who are in need of healing, body and soul. There are many out there who need feeding, who need to be cared for, who need to be loved. Christ has built an eternal Church, towering throughout the ages, blazing with the lives of the saints, to continue His Work and His mission. Each generation passing His Church to the next. Today, we are that Church, *how are we going to serve? What is Jesus asking you to do?*

Perhaps going down to Fountain Square and preaching on street corners is not for you, unless you believe that's your calling. But rather, we are asked to consider what our calling is, what Jesus is asking us to do. Being part of Christ's Church is about all of our life, everything we do, everything we say. He has summoned you and I and *what is he asking you to do?*

It is so inspiring to see the people of SSC march with justice and prayer and always asking, *where will following those steps of peace lead us? Where should we march?*