

Homily. 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. B. 14/14 July 2024.

The key to our mission of service is the same as it was for the 12 core disciples. They were sent out as Apostles to speak and act in Jesus name because he authorised them to do so. Likewise, it's by Jesus authority that we are able to become authors to others of his words and deeds.

These days we have more rules and regulations to comply to than did the 12, many very necessary, others maybe not so much. But, the one indispensable factor for all of us, as it has always been, is that we hear and respond to Jesus invitation to come and learn from him. Then, when we're ready, that we accept his call to live his authorisation to be him and to bring him to those around us, the people of our own time and place.

Our invitation to learn of Jesus way has as many avenues of reaching and drawing us to him as there are people. Once we do come into his family of faith, finding our belonging in the Church and our local parish community, our authorisation to minister in the name of Christ in public ways comes from the action of the Holy Spirit living and breathing in the Church, His body. Blessed with all of the heavenly spiritual gifts and being lovingly accepted as God's sons and daughters in Christ, we are asked to further God's plan which is to bring everything together in the Lord.

Where evil and its effects tests, scatters, weakens and divides people, our service comes from the one God who loves us all. God gives us this love in the one Christ, gifting us further with the one spirit of grace, holiness and powerful God-love. In this way, so authorised, we become for many the only gospel that they will ever get to welcome, see, hear or

touch. No longer do we simply visit hospitals and homes or minister communion at Mass; now we take, offer and are Christ himself for those we serve. No longer do we simply teach in schools, groups and parishes or read at Mass; now we speak out and model the words of the gospel itself, who is Christ. No longer do we simply go to a meeting or committee or even a Mass in our Parishes or Diocese; now we grasp that we actively participate in making the Body of Christ alive and real today.

All of this begins in our Baptism, which is our new birth into Christ. It's then affirmed and strengthened in the Confirmation Spirit, being fed and deepened in every prayer we offer, every Eucharist we celebrate, any ministry we live or good work we do. People say they want to be more prayerful, to live holier lives, to know and to do God's will. Well, what I've said here is the bedrock of all prayer, holiness and fidelity to God's will.

With this base in place everything else can be discerned and makes real sense. Without this understanding, nothing really works out or lasts. For as St. Paul, quoted earlier, said; God's hidden plan from the beginning is to bring everything together under Christ as Head; everything in the heavens and everything on earth. It's God's great mission plan that Christ authorises you and me to take up and on and to play our special part in bringing about; the plan of salvation for all by and through Divine love.