

Peace is... participating in the harvest

Galatians 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Gospel Acclamation “Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:15a,16a)*

Luke 10:2 “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few...”

Reflection:

As Catholics, we respond to Christ’s invitation to be a laborer for the harvest. He tells us, His disciples, to take nothing with us on our journey. God will provide all that we need. **How do we do this?** We focus on His Will throughout each day. We bring His Truth, His Word, His Love, and His Mercy, to the situations in which we find ourselves. We seek justice for those who have no voice. It is our mission. He will take care of the rest. God will care for us so beautifully as a nursing mother cares for her baby, as we are told in the first reading.

What keeps us from focusing on Jesus? What prevents us from bringing Him to others? **Fear of ridicule?** *Jesus tells us that if people don’t want to hear the truth, then we are to shake it off and go to others who will listen.* **Fear of suffering?** *We know that because we are human we will suffer. If we offer up our suffering to the Lord, we can share in His redemptive passion. “By uniting ourselves more closely with the sufferings of Our Lord, we receive the grace of sharing in the saving work of Christ.”¹* **Preoccupation with material things or pleasures?** *Jesus tells us, “Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.” When we free ourselves from all the extra things and distractions that we do not really need, we can focus on our mission. We can learn to be disciplined in this way over time, little by little. We must keep trying; we must pick up our cross daily and remember that Jesus is always with us.*

When we hear “**evangelization**,” do we think “Not me! That is for someone else!”? Yet we are all called to this task. One aspect of evangelization is “to bring the Gospel of salvation to those near and far.”² God establishes His Kingdom on earth through our own unique traits and experiences, in spite of our shortcomings and weaknesses. When we allow God to work through us, anything is possible. Yet we cannot take credit for anything we do or accomplish. As St. Paul tells us, the only thing we can boast about is the cross. Are we willing to sacrifice?

Action:

- *Be informed about those who have no voice, such as those who suffer from human trafficking or child labor. Go to www.notforsale.org, www.sharedhope.org, www.slaverymap.org, and www.free2work.org (provides info about companies’ fair practices)*
- *Learn about Fair Trade, which is about paying fair prices to local farmers and artisans in different parts of the world where products or crops, such as coffee, chocolate, and handcrafts, are obtained. Go to www.crsfairtrade.org . Or call Catholic Relief Services at 1-888-277-7575.*
- *Go to www.thehungersite.com where you can click daily to provide a cup of food for the hungry for free (paid for by their sponsors), purchase fair trade products, and learn about other peace & justice projects in which you can participate.*

- *Learn more about issues surrounding U.S. immigration reform:*

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

Consider attending one of the upcoming Migrant Masses on 7/11 in Westville or 7/18 in Hobart.

(See bulletin for details)

Independence Day



~Religious freedom~
~We are all created equal~

1. United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB, Washington, D.C. 2006, p.254. 2. *ibid.*, p16.

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<http://www.sjbcatholicparish.org/peace-justice.php>