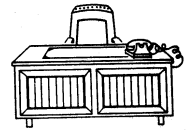


15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 15, 2018



From the Desk of
Fr. Romanus

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Financial Support:

I would like to thank all who have contributed towards our parish support. Your contributions are very necessary to keep our parish and her ministries alive. While some have been incredibly generous, others have little or no financial commitment to the parish. Some people are uncomfortable when reminded that they have a financial responsibility towards the parish. The financial burden of the parish lightens when everyone gets involved. Our end of the year report shows envelope deficit of \$36,781. The parish's envelope contributions have been on a declining trajectory for several years. It would be wonderful if we could reverse that trajectory by getting involved in the financial support of our parish and using envelopes or direct deposit.

Recent generous contributions to the parish include the following:

The Estate of Janice Van Roo gave the parish an incredible donation of \$100,000. We have received half of the contribution and hope to receive the other half soon.

Paul Siegel gave the parish \$500 in memory of his parents, Al and Jean Siegel.

Helen Hauser gave the parish \$800 towards the priest's mic.

Please, join me in thanking these generous contributors and keeping the deceased in prayer.

Sunday Reflection:

In this Sunday's gospel, we read about the mission of the twelve apostles. As spiritual apprentices, they learned from their master the ways of the kingdom. When the time was right, Jesus sent them out two by two, and gave them authority over the enemy. He also gave them power to perform signs and wonders essential to the mission.

Jesus instructed the apostles not to take anything except walking stick and sandals. They needed walking stick and sandals in traversing the rugged terrain of Palestine and surrounding regions. We may wonder why they were not to bring along essentials like food, money, or extra clothing. These are things we would consider necessary for surviving their uncertain adventure. However, Jesus intended to teach the apostles a lesson about trust and reliance on divine providence. They were to trust that God would provide for them through the generosity of those who welcome them.

Jesus also taught them to avoid being naïve in thinking that everyone would be welcoming. He cautioned that while some will welcome them, others would reject them. They were to stay wherever they felt welcomed. However, where they were not welcomed, they were to leave and shake the dust off their feet in testimony against the city and its people. This sense of judgment on those who reject God's messengers is addressed by all three synoptic gospels and Acts (See Mark 6:11, Matthew 10:13, Luke 10:11, and Acts 13:51). The practice of shaking dust of one's feet could also mean shaking off hurt and resentment that come from rejection as to continue ministering with peace of mind.

Like the apostles, Jesus is sending us into the world to proclaim the good news. As with his apostles, he is not giving us false hope by promising that everything would be wonderful. On the contrary, he is real with us by cautioning that not everyone will be welcoming, but we have to trust God to take care of us. Obviously, not everyone in Jesus' time welcomed his ministry despite the accompanying miracles. Their rejection even culminated in murderous rage that gave us the cross as a symbol of God's love.

Have a great week!

Fr. Romanus