

CELEBRATE SABBATH

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Plan your future with purpose, organize your life with faith,
strive to fulfill your purpose with hope.**

Isaiah 66:10-14

The sixth century prophet shares his vision of mother Jerusalem in an all-embracing love of her children, nursing her children and taking delight in their restoration. Loved, forgiven and restored by God, Jerusalem would stand as a sign of compassion and power among the peoples. The power of the Lord will be revealed in and through his servants.

Psalms 66

The Psalmist invites all people, not just the believing Israel, to shout joyfully to the Lord and sing him glorious praises. He marvels at the awesome deeds of the Lord and calls all people to be faithful to their promises and vows. God is so awesome and so powerful that his enemies have no chance, but cringe! He invites all people to come and see what God has done.

The Lord has not withheld his steadfast love from me, he says. This is a source of great joy. It is also a source of inspiration and strength. It is a challenge to reach out to others in love - "not to withhold" our love from others. We are called to give what we have received as gifts from the Lord.

**Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
Sing praise to the glory of his name;
Proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"**

Galatians 6:14-18

In this excerpt, Paul tries to convince the Galatians that it is through the cross of Jesus that salvation has come to sinful humanity. Paul's opponents insisted on the necessity of the law and circumcision for salvation. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Paul was convinced that it was the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that brought salvation. Paul wished peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life.

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus said to his disciples, “Look, there is a rich harvest.....” Jesus looked at a crowd and saw a rich harvest while the Pharisees looked at the same people and found only sinful, unfaithful people worthy of judgment and condemnation. Jesus found people to be gathered, to be brought in and not shut out.....

The disciples of Jesus are called to maintain a positive attitude toward the world around them and gather people in rather than alienate them.....

The disciples were given a God-directed mission and not a self-fulfilling, self-directed mission. There was an urgency about fulfilling this mission because the mission was the proclamation of the presence of the Kingdom of God – it was about the rich harvest waiting to be gathered in and not about some future reality.

So, the disciples of Jesus were called to live a simple life, travel light and not be burdened with stuff that weighs them down.....

Disciples of Jesus are called to be bearers of good news, of peace, of God’s forgiving love, of God’s healing presence....and never to become a burden to others.....

The seventy-two disciples went on their first mission and they were excited about their accomplishments.... the devils became subject to their power.... who wouldn’t be exited!!! They returned and told their master about all the wonderful things they did. The master told them to rejoice, not in their accomplishments, but in their being accepted into the kingdom.

The joy of a disciple is in being a disciple and not in doing the work of the disciple. All that is done is only an expression of discipleship. Being a disciple is reward and joy in itself.

Saint of the day, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti and 18 other saints are remembered this day

Maria Goretti was born on October 16, 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Province of Ancona, then in the Kingdom of Italy, to Luigi Goretti and Assunta Carlini, the third of seven children. By the time Maria was five, her family had become so poor that they were forced to give up their farm, move, and work for other farmers. In 1896 and 1899, they moved again and shared room with another family which included Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro. Soon, her father became very sick with malaria, and died when

she was just nine. While her mother and siblings worked in the fields, she would cook, sew, watch her sister Teresa, and keep the house clean.

On July 5, 1902, eleven-year-old Maria was sitting on the outside steps of her home, sewing one of Alessandro's shirts and watching Teresa, while Alessandro was threshing beans in the barnyard. Knowing she would be alone, he returned to the house and threatened to stab her with an awl if she did not do what he said; he was intending to rape her. She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning him that he would go to Hell. She fought desperately and kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" He first choked her, but when she insisted, she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. She tried to reach the door, but he stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia. Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria." She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in Heaven with her. She died that day, on July 6, 1902 at the age of eleven, while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest.

Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death.

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