

## Fr. Simon Sez

Today, we celebrate the fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the gospel reading (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20) Jesus sends His disciples to the towns out ahead of Him. Jesus tells them to say to them, “The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.” Throughout Ordinary Liturgical time, we proclaim the kingdom of God as disciples of Christ. We do this through, with, and in the Church so that we may be under the authority of Christ, experience the power of God, and rejoice in Him!



In today’s first reading (Isaiah 66:10-14c), the prophet Isaiah speaks about Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, the Church sees herself as the New Jerusalem. So, the Church is the fulfillment of these promises about Jerusalem.

The prophet Isaiah says, “Thus says the Lord: Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, exult, exult with her, all you who love her.” We need to learn to love the Church, so that, we can rejoice with her.

We will rejoice, and we do rejoice in Him through His Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, Christ as Head and we as members. We are associated with Christ when we are associated with His Church. We then share in the power of God so that we can be fulfilled in our missions in life. Jesus says in today’s gospel to not rejoice in this, but rejoice because our names are written in heaven.

This is all about salvation! It is about loving ourselves and the Church enough to do whatever it takes to be a part of His Kingdom, the Church, and to do it for our loved ones as well, our spouses, our children, and our grandchildren. We need to witness to them this power that we have experienced in our own lives. Pray that you might realize this power of God that has been involved in your life, being saved by it and experiencing it as God works through you for the salvation of your loved ones.

This is real stuff. We have to decide if we are going to be resolutely determined to call upon the power of God in our lives, to experience that power, and to witness it to others; so that, they too might experience it and have their names written in heaven.

The kingdom of God is at hand, rejoice! “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her...”

## Harvest Time: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Isaiah 66:10-14  
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20  
Galatians 6:14-18  
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus has a vision in this week’s Gospel: Satan falling like lightning from the sky, the enemy vanquished by the missionary preaching of His Church.

Sent out by Jesus to begin gathering the nations into the harvest of divine judgment (see Isaiah 27:12–13; Joel 4:13), the seventy are a sign of the continuing mission of the Church.

Carrying out the work of the seventy, the Church proclaims the coming of God’s kingdom. She offers His blessings of peace and mercy to every household on earth, “every town and place He intended to visit.”

Our Lord’s tone is solemn today, for in the preaching of the Church “the kingdom of God is at hand,” the time of decision has come for every person. Those who do not receive His messengers will be doomed like Sodom.

But those who believe will find peace and mercy, protection and nourishment in the bosom of the Church, the Mother Zion we celebrate in this week’s beautiful First Reading, the “Israel of God” Paul blesses in this week’s Epistle.

The Church is a new family of faith (see Galatians 6:10) in which we receive a new name that will endure forever (see Isaiah 66:22), a name written in heaven.

In this week’s Psalm, we sing of God’s “tremendous deeds among men” throughout salvation history. But of all the works of God, none has been greater than what He has wrought by the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Changing the sea into dry land was but an anticipation and preparation for our passing over, for what Paul calls the “new creation.” And as the Exodus generation was protected in a wilderness of serpents and scorpions (see Deuteronomy 8:15), He has given His Church power now over “the full force of the enemy.” Nothing will harm us as we make our way through the wilderness of this world, awaiting the Master of the harvest, awaiting the day when all on earth will shout joyfully to the Lord and sing praise to the glory of His name.