# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

**Gospel text (*Lk* 10:1-12.17-20):** At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town."

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

***"Go on your way"***

Dr. Josef ARQUER
*(Berlin, Germany)*

Today, we look at some in the crowd who have sought to approach Jesus Christ, who is speaking while looking out over the fields brimming with grain: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Suddenly, he fixes his gaze on them and points to a few, one by one: you, and you, and you. As many as seventy-two…

Amazed, they hear him tell them to go, two by two, to all the towns and places where He will go. Perhaps someone has responded: But, Lord, I have come only to hear you, because what you say is so beautiful!

The Lord warns them against the dangers that await them. “Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.” And using common imagery in parables, he adds: "Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals" (Luke 10:3-4). Interpreting Jesus' expressive language: —Leave aside human means. I am sending you and that is enough. Even if you feel far away, you are still close, I am with you.

Unlike the Twelve, called by the Lord to remain with Him, the seventy-two will later return to their families and their work. And they will live there what they had discovered together with Jesus: bearing witness, each in their own place, simply helping those around them to draw closer to Jesus Christ.

The adventure ends well: "The seventy-two returned rejoicing" (Luke 10:17). Seated around Jesus Christ, they must have recounted the experiences of those two days in which they discovered the beauty of being witnesses.

Considering that distant episode today, we see that it is not a mere historical memory. We take note: we can feel close to Christ present in the Church and adore him in the Eucharist. And Pope Francis encourages us to "bring Jesus Christ to humanity and lead people to an encounter with Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, truly present in the Church and contemporary in every person."

## *Thoughts on Today's Gospel*

- “He sent his disciples out to preach two by two, because the precept of charity is twofold-love of God and of one's neighbour; between less than two there can be no charity” (St. Gregory the Great)

- “St Luke highlighted the disciples' enthusiasm at the good results of their mission. May this Gospel reawaken in all the baptized the awareness that they are missionaries of Christ” (Benedict XVI)

- “(...) The Twelve and the other disciples share in Christ's mission and his power, but also in his lot. By all his actions, Christ prepares and builds his Church.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 765)

## *Other comments*

### *“I am sending you”*

Fr. Iñaki BALLBÉ i Turu
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Today, the Church contemplates how from those following the Lord that had been called by him, besides the Twelve, there were also numerous disciples. From all those disciples the Lord chooses seventy two for

a concrete mission. He expects from them the same as from the Apostles, namely, total generosity and complete abandonment to Divine Providence.

The Second Ecumenical Vatican Council, in its decree Apostolicam actuositatem, reminds us that from the Baptism each Christian is called by Christ to carry out a mission. The Church, in the name of our Lord, “earnestly entreats all the laity in the Lord to answer gladly, nobly, and promptly the more urgent invitation of Christ in this hour and the impulse of the Holy Spirit. Younger persons should feel that this call has been directed to them especially and they should respond to it eagerly and generously. Through this holy synod, the Lord renews His invitation to all the laity to come closer to Him every day, recognizing that what is His is also their own (Phil. 2:5), to associate themselves with Him in His saving mission. Once again He sends them into every town and place where He will come (cf. Luke 10:1) so that they may show that they are co-workers in the various forms and modes of the one apostolate of the Church, which must be constantly adapted to the new needs of our times. Ever productive as they should be in the work of the Lord, they know that their labor in Him is not in vain (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58)” (n. 33).

Christ wants to instill in his disciples the apostolic boldness; this is why He says “I am sending you”, to which St. John Chrysostom comments: “This should suffice to cheer you up; this would suffice to give you confidence and not be afraid of those who attack you.” The boldness of the Apostles and disciples came from the certainty that they had been chosen and sent out by God himself. They acted the same as Peter firmly explained at the Sanhedrin, in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, “nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved” (Acts 4:12).