

7th Sunday of Easter – We live in an era in which organizations, etc. have Mission Statements. These are statements that, pretty much, give the focus of the group, what is expected of the members of that organization, the efficient carrying out of their roles, and the impact they have on the larger community as a result of adhering to their Missions Statement.

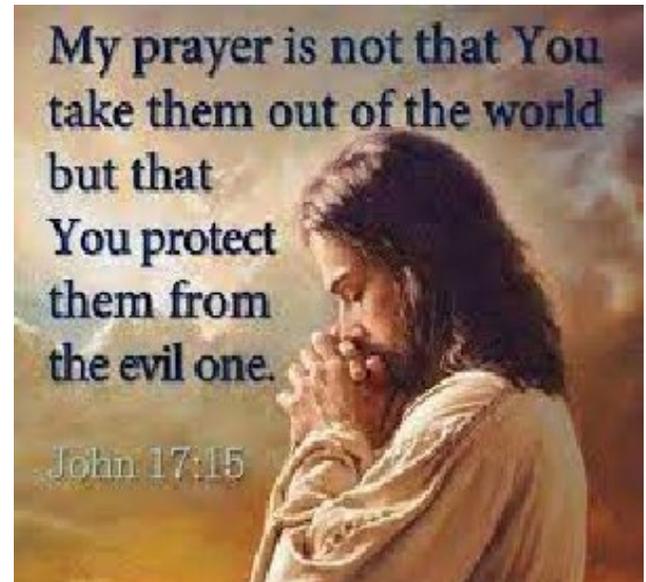
The prayer of Jesus and the Mission Statement of the Apostles stand in stark contrast. Jesus is not concerned with efficiency or with the culture of the survival of the fittest. The Apostles, gathered to seek Judas' replacement, are not looking for the most handsome, the cleverest, or even the most eloquent person. Their criteria are quite simple: "Has he been with us since the time John was baptizing? Can he witness to the resurrection of Jesus?" Before His death, Jesus prays to the Father. He prays that His disciples may be true to the Father's name; may be united just like the Father and Jesus are united; will share Jesus' joy to the full; will be protected from the evil one and consecrated to the truth. All this is necessary, for Jesus has sent His disciples into the world to proclaim the truth. The truth that Jesus Himself has taught and which He received from the Father. The Apostles focus all their energy and enthusiasm upon announcing Kingdom of God revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their Mission is to proclaim the Good News to all creation. The manner in which this is done is in accordance with the prayer of Jesus – remaining true to the Father through the dark days of despair and persecution. They go out with the courage throughout the world announcing the Father's graciousness just as Jesus Himself did.

This week, as we prepare for the commemoration of Pentecost – that day when the disciples and Mary received the Holy Spirit – let us focus our minds and hearts upon the mission that we have as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to use our energy and enthusiasm, just as the Apostles did, to announce the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are asked to dedicate ourselves to the truth just as those listening to Jesus before His death were asked to do. Simply put – we are to love others as God loves us.

In our homes, our colleges and schools, in our workplaces, our clubs, the grocery store, or on the highway – the question we need to ask of ourselves is: whose Mission are we fulfilling? Is our own desire for a comfortable life or God's desire for the entire world to know God's merciful love uppermost in our hearts? Am I consecrated in the truth or do I allow the media's world of half-truths to influence me more than the word of God? The world is in need of a people dedicated to the Mission of Jesus Christ. They are looking for lives that radiate God's saving mercy. For this great task we cannot rely on our own strength, but in God Who will fill us.

This week, as we prepare for the celebration of Pentecost, let us allow ourselves to be open to and cooperative with God's will as we pray: Come Holy Spirit!

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace



Father Dave

Father Rody

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

7TH SUN EASTER YR-B...JN 17, 11-19

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one.

I DO NOT ASK THAT YOU TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD

The famous saying, 'Bloom where you are planted' tells us that whatever your circumstances in your life are *always find the terms growth (internally) and development (externally)*. These circumstances should never be evaded nor taken for granted but rather *be faced with God's grace (fortitude and perseverance)*.

Especially when life becomes rough, we raise the question 'How did I approach that rough moments of my life...what were my coping mechanisms?'

Mankind remember you are not superman... you are not man of steel...even steel has melting point. Don't face life by your very self alone...you cannot make it. Bring with you these three things;

JN 15, 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

MT 11, 28 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

MT 7, 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

BUT YOU KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE

God will not remove us from the world despite filled with anxiety, sufferings and deprivations. Rather, He would just continue protecting us from the snares of the enemies (Satan would use paradigm shifts...from being industrious to being lazy...from pro-life to pro-abortion etc.). God would insist telling us, *'Mankind isn't that I gave you two gifts (life and brain) use them...use life to look for work...use brain to think what kind of work that would give you decent living...if you still have extra strength, same cycle applies...use your life to look for a work and use your brain to think what kind of decent work that my remaining stamina could handle.'*

God will use instruments to protect us from the evil and He will put us into a situation where we can experience the abundance of life... Jn 10, 10...*I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*