

14th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

- I work at a retreat house – admired for many reasons
 - I can't help but feel good when I hear it praised
 - Praying in the Chapel Experience (sitting up straighter)
 - Why? Good Example?
 - Pride – Esteem
 - Wanted to be viewed according to my will – not reality
 - I was taking MY SELF WORTH from things external to me
 - Reputation of the Retreat House
 - Others perception of me
- In the Gospel today Jesus warns the 72 about their attitudes as he sends them out
 - Travel light – no purse, no sandals
 - Don't dilly dally on the way
 - LEAVE everything the world values
 - BRING YOURSELF & MY MESSAGE
 - “The Kingdom of God is at hand”
- They miss the point and return raving about external signs of power
- Jesus corrects them “Don't rejoice because spirits submitted to you”
“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven”
To be close to the Lord is what is important
 - We are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day
We celebrate our Independence, Liberty & Freedom
 - **True freedom comes from forgiveness of sin**
 - JC - **“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven”**
To be close to the Lord is what is important
- Go back to me in the Chapel – Did those people remember I was sitting up straight?
NO – But they are still talking about their experience of God at the Retreat Center!
What is important in life is not *the externals*
What is important in life is *the internal focus of our hearts*
 - Are you focused on things, the world, prestige, ...
 - Are you focused on your love relationship with God
 - What really motivates how you live?

ICE & CLAY

- Same Sun – THE NATURE of ice and clay make them react differently
- Same with our hearts – OUR NATURE – to be the beloved of God
Our nature should be reflected in the desire of our heart
Do we focus on the “stuff” of the world?
Or love-relationship with God
That focus will determine what kind of people we will be
And exactly how free we really are this Independence Day