

Trinity News

Pentecost VII Going out and Coming Back in the Mission of Christ

*H*ere in the Philippines at a Presidential Inauguration the incoming president walks out the outgoing president and then returns to be formally inaugurated. Whatever the outcome of elections, these are historic moments in the communal journey of any country and it occurred yesterday.

Today in the Church we are also recalling the details of the descriptions in Luke's Gospel of one of the first Christian missions. Jesus sends out 70 of his disciples. Their commissioning and their return is described in Luke 10:1-12, 16-20. God sees what every person can become. Jesus does not give a prescription for every aspect of the journey of these disciples chosen for what he sees in them. He wants them to grow into the destiny prepared for them. But his interest in the lives of those he called and those he encountered on the way is astounding. We need to make the most of our observations about people when we meet them. This may enable us to read people better. This is a gentle art that need practice, just like learning a language or a musical instrument.

Our whole life as Christians is about what we can do for others as we follow the lead and example of "the man for others" (Bonhoeffer). It is not about what others can do for us. That is at the root of all selfish motives and actions.

A paraphrase of words written by Jesus through the Spirit for the road out and the journey home:

God opposes evil with goodness and love: humans all too often oppose goodness and love with evil and hate.

Silence is strength. Silence with actions that resonate love of neighbor speaks louder than words.

Absolutes need to be qualified quickly for human consumption.

What you cannot heal or bring peace to, leave alone.

Satan falls like lightning into the earth and inner darkness. This is the original hell because there is no return journey to heaven.

Having our name on a street sign or being recognized for a considerable achievement is great, it is but far greater for one's name to be heard and inscribed in heaven. That will never fade.

Whenever you meet someone, nothing is what it seems to be, there's always more. Ministry is the next person that you meet.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday.

- Finance Meeting, 6:00pm, Parish office

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

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