

**July 7-8, 2007**  
**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Isaiah 66:10-14      Galatians 6:14-18      Luke 10:1-9**

'The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.'

While the message was astonishingly fresh, the first apostles and disciples of Jesus dealt with manageable circumstances as they worked the harvest on behalf of Jesus. The early Eucharist was done in homes within the context of a weekly meal (there was of course no concept of daily Mass or even Mass as we now recognize it.) The sharing of the Gospel was initially done in Jewish Synagogues and marketplaces, there were no parish structures, meeting space or the accretion of popular devotions/expectations. The language of evangelism was of course the language of the people, which would vary depending upon the location. Crowd capacity, while literarily magnified in the Scriptures to convey 'large crowds' were dozens and sometimes hundreds; quite manageable from a 'relational spirituality' approach to Jesus. How the years have reshaped the initial simplicity of what Jesus set in motion! Into this evolving entity called the Church, toss in clergy, priests in particular, and things really get interesting. While the clerical hierarchy includes deacons, priests, bishops, cardinals and popes, a reasonable wager would be that if asked about 'clergy', what first comes to Catholic people's mind is 'priest'...the local and humanly physical manifestation of the Universal Church. Ask ten people what they think a priest should be and you will get ten different answers. Some want a retro-cleric as they remember priests from their childhood...or have read about in literature written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some want a social advocate pushing contemporary causes. Some want a dispenser of Sacraments or moral arbiter. Some want a reliable touchstone who will always be available, whenever and wherever. And all this in the midst of parishes that number thousands of FAMILIES, and frequently have diminishing number of priests...goodness, can you believe that some parishes only have ONE priest? How do they manage?! Ultimately, despite what some individuals or groups think, the Church belongs to Jesus, and it is always Jesus' discretion as to how the Holy Spirit will direct, shape or reform the Church. Are diminishing vocations a sign of the Holy Spirit altering the leadership of the Church? No telling. Do diminishing numbers of priests necessarily require a rethinking/revisiting of older concepts and expectations? Most certainly. Will politics, religion and social agendas always be interwoven? Do chickens have feathers? What should a wise disciple do when faced with great change and limited vocations to priesthood? Pray. Pray for hearts to be open to vocations? Pray for wisdom and courage by Church leaders to discern the path of the Spirit. Pray for those who want to make believe nothing is happening. Pray...and ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Catholic-Christian Community for prayer and worship. With the smoke from the Fourth of July finally cleared, we are now looking at 'Galilee by the Sea' as our next BIG event? Have you registered yet? Three special nights of July 17-18-19, complete with dinner and interactive ways to experience the Galilee Jesus await you. Registration forms are available on the Concierge Shelves. Our new Corpus Christi Young Adult Ministry gets underway this Thursday at Capo Beach fire pits. Call Shawn Wehan at 297-8516 for more info. Please take a Bulletin with you for more info and remember, as the temperature rises, you are loved. FKB