

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LOOK

In the liturgical calendar, we are in the longest season now, the season after Pentecost which is also called “ordinary time”. The word ordinary is not used to mean “mundane” but rather comes from the word “ordinal” which means “counted time”. This also happens to be a time of year when many of us rest or vacation from our usual routine.

1. What do you need rest from right now and how will you find it?
2. How can ordinary time be a blessing for yourself, your family, and your community?

BOOK *Matthew 9:35-10:8*

This is Jesus’ second discourse in the gospel of Matthew, following the first which is the sermon on the mount. It’s about taking what they’ve learned and putting it into action – literally taking it to the streets.

1. Why does Jesus spend time teaching, preaching and healing? What is his motivation?
2. Spend a little time discussing the harvest analogy. Why does Jesus use this metaphor? What happens to fruit that is and isn’t harvested?
3. Read verse 10:1-2 carefully. What happens between naming Jesus’ followers as disciples and then changing their description to apostles?
4. Why does Jesus direct them to go to the lost sheep of Israel first?

TOOK

Compassion for the harvest, (God’s people) and authority given by God, are enough to turn disciples into apostles. Disciples are apprentices or students. Apostles are messengers with the same authority as Jesus to heal people and spread the good news.

1. For whom do you have compassion? What harvest do you see that others may have missed?
2. This ordinary time after the powerful gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost may be the perfect time to pray for a new perspective, try a new ministry, find a unique spiritual practice, make a new friend, get out of our comfort zone. What would you like to try this summer?