

June 14, 2026 Homily

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/061426.cfm>

The whole Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as teacher, preacher and healer. These divine actions are not three separate jobs, but one integrated ministry. Then, Jesus commissions the twelve to continue his saving ministry in the world. The Twelve and their successors are now commissioned to go forth in order to teach, preach, and heal. Jesus loves humanity. So, when He sees the crowds like sheep without shepherd, He feels compassion for them and calls the twelve to be their shepherds. Jesus is willing to shepherd God's people and gather them together. And he invites his friends to join him in this saving job, so through the loving guidance of Apostles and their successors, the mission will be extended to all. Jesus does not see in the crowds just numbers; He sees individuals, He sees God's beloved children. He does not see masses; He sees stories, broken hearts, people in need of hope and light. His compassion does not remain merely a feeling; it becomes a mission, and He asks his followers to do the same.

If we do not love one another, there is no way to follow Jesus. If we do not have compassion for the suffering, the vulnerable, and the rejected, we cannot join Jesus in his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing the world. Then, Jesus mentions another challenge: Even with the support of the Twelve, Jesus says the laborers are too few, and He commands prayer for more workers. What we normally describe as a "crisis of vocations," Jesus identifies as a "harvest." He sees a world ready to be gathered around the table of boundless mercy, truth, brotherly fellowship and love. In a world of darkness and suffering, the Apostles are to proclaim God's love and to embody God's mercy by all means, in their families, in their neighborhoods and in the whole world.

And Jesus himself teaches his followers, how to embody God's mercy: It is all about feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and homebound, protecting the vulnerable, welcoming the stranger, being people of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. The problem is not the needs of the people, but a lack of hearts available to respond. Jesus' followers participate in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, and since their Baptism, They have been designed to do this work. And so, out of compassion, the calling and sending forth of the Twelve arises. Jesus sends them out in their fragility,

without guarantees or human power, because the Gospel does not rest on strategies, but rather on witnesses.

Our world is saturated with all kinds of offers, immoral life-styles and noise. But most people remain deeply hungry for meaning. There are multitudes of weary people - exhausted by the rush, wounded by broken relationships, and disoriented by life and there is still a lack of witnesses who look with compassion and get close to the suffering. Being sent as missionaries of love is not just for a select few; it is a vocation that touches all believers. Wherever we are—in our families, at work, or in our communities there is a harvest waiting. It is not a matter of doing more things, but of seeing our neighbors as Jesus sees them.

The following words said by Pope Leo in the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia complement the message of today's Gospel: "We cannot believe in Jesus and promote war. We cannot believe in Jesus and kill the innocent. We cannot believe in Jesus and abandon those who weep, those who flee from misery." In summary, we cannot say that we follow Christ if we remain indifferent to the suffering of others. Our actions can teach or misguide others; they can proclaim God's love or call people to hate one another; they can heal the broken or inflict even more suffering on our neighbors.

We live in difficult times, but also a great harvest is ready. The Catholic Church is experiencing a special renewal in America. So, we are challenged to embrace integrity. I will finish with the following words from Protestant Pastor Benjamin Cremer: "A Christianity that causes the hungry to go without food, the sick to go without healthcare, the stranger to be mistreated, and God's creation to be destroyed, all while the greedy and cruel satisfy their every desire, is a Christianity that no longer follows Christ."

The Universal Prayer
Sunday 14th June 2026
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant:

Sisters and brothers, Jesus began to lay the Foundation of his Church by selecting twelve of his disciples to be apostles who would extend his ministry of preaching and care.

1. For Pope Leo, returned from his Apostolic Visit to Spain, that he may rest a while so that he can continue his ministry for peace in the world and unity in the Church.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For each other that we may treasure the sacrifice of Jesus, who died for us while we were still sinners, a sign of God's love for humanity.

We pray to the Lord.

3. For all refugees: that those who have settled here may be welcomed, and those who live in desperate situations will not be forgotten or ignored by others.

We pray to the Lord.

4. For unity among all people of goodwill, that prayers for the end of the wars across the Middle East, between Ukraine and Russia, within Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar, will be insistent and fervent, so that peace will be true and lasting.

We pray to the Lord.

5. For an increased in the number of vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Raleigh, and to the Religious Life in the Daughters of St. Mary of Guadalupe.

We pray to the Lord.

6. For refugees who died attempting to escape war, poverty and hunger, that they will be welcomed to the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father, gather to yourself the prayers of your people, as we continue to give you thanks for all your blessings. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.