

**July 6-7, 2019**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Isaiah 66:10-14**

**Galatians 6:14-18**

**Luke 10:1-20**

Before the advent of AIDS and the common awareness of how diseases are transmitted, it was not an unusual childhood/early-teen 'ritual' for young kids (primarily male) to become 'blood brothers' by nicking their thumbs and co-mingling their blood. A ritual of bonding that would probably horrify most parents today (who get freaked out about sharing glasses of water or soda cans), the old 'sharing of blood' was an effort to create a BOND stronger than simply words or shared experiences. Our Second Reading from St. Paul mentions the ritual of circumcision, which used to be an outward sign of belonging to the people of Abraham, as no longer being of RITUAL importance for those who had embraced new life within Jesus. Our Gospel passage from Luke speaks of Jesus sending his disciples out AHEAD OF HIM, to the places he would be visiting, as sort of an advance team. While having morphed over the last two thousand years, today, circumcision is no longer a ritual requirement, and the 'blood brother' bonding occurs through the sharing of the ONE CUP and the ONE BREAD as we receive Eucharist. Circling back within the Gospel passage...the disciples are PREQUELS to Jesus...just hearing ABOUT Jesus is not the same as actually encountering him and hearing HIS voice and committing ourselves to HIM. As we move beyond our Fourth of July celebrations into the languorous days of Summer, as we go about our lives of faith...are we actively GROWING our relationship with Jesus, encountering him, hearing HIS voice, sharing ourselves with HIM....or have we fallen into the trap of honoring the stories about WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF JESUS? While helpful, other people's stories are still other people's stories and Jesus is anxious to speak to EACH OF OUR HEARTS...directly and clearly. In the sharing of these experiences we can determine their authenticity and grow in our sense of bonding as a community...just as becoming 'blood-brothers/sisters' might have done in childhood (and circumcision did) but now is accomplished through sharing the BODY and BLOOD of Christ when we gather.

Thank you for sharing this Independence Day holiday weekend with our Santa Clara community. Even though it seems like Summer has only just begun, next weekend our SVDP and Heart and Soul outreaches will be distributing EMPTY school back-packs with the hopes that you will take one and return it filled with school supplies (as will be listed on an accompanying info sheet) for the kids at our Sister-Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Santa Ana. Thank you for your kindness. Please take a Bulletin home with you for more news of parish happenings, our La Cena in September and the cancelling of the 12noon Masses on Sunday - July 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday - August 4<sup>th</sup> for the ample celebrations of the FIRST Santa Clara Masses by Fathers Michael and Daniel. Enjoy your weekend, Summer won't last forever...but something that will, is the promise that you are loved! FKB