

Eleventh Sunday – A - June 14, 2026 + Homily, Father Ed Hislop

Exodus 18:2-6a; Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36-10:8



The words of the Gospel are ominous, challenging, discomfoting, yet filled with hope when we apply them to the days and times in which we are living: *“At the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with compassion for them because they were troubled and abandoned...”* At the sight of the crowds today... for, as always, the Gospel is not about yesteryear, but about today. The crowds are vast, close to home and far away: immigrants among us living in fear imposed by our government, bearing “no respect for human dignity;” the sick longing for care and support; the innocent victims of war in the Middle East, Ukraine and in so many other places we hear little about; the homeless and hungry among us; and the far too many struggling just to live.

The troubled and abandoned are all around us. Some of us may be one of them! And then there are those who call themselves Christian, or even Catholic, while embracing the hatred of exclusion, the violence of war and the dark works of separation, rounding up, sending away, and “abandoning” to massive detention centers, reminiscent of another age of hatred and blame.

There is a failure, often deliberate, to embrace life as God’s gift, in all its dimensions, mystery, hopes, sickness, struggles, joy and diversity; A failure of

compassion, justice, and failure of the heart, while the powerful and wealthy continue to steal from and blame the needy, while embracing a so called “Christian Nationalism,” which has no place in the Gospel of Christ, nor in the heart, mind and actions of those who claim to follow him.

The “unclean spirits” of today are alive and menacing—too often unnamed, ignored, or seen as to fearful to confront and “drive out.” So here we are, again, encamped in front of the mountain of vision, hope and mission, not unlike those first apostles, who were strong and weak, enthusiastic and fearful, graceful and sinful, not sure what to do, how act or who to believe. Yet, like those first apostles, we too are called, invited, enticed, to bear the vision of Christ, and to hear the word of God echo through the land: *“I bore you up on eagle’s wings and brought you here to myself... Hearken to my voice and keep my commandments.”*

“Go,” I send you to see the truth of the times: I send you to attend to what is happening to people, people like you, your neighbors close and far away. I send you to see the struggle, the hardship, the violence, the fear; I send you to name the lies, the hatred, the betrayals. I send you to become even more aware and to listen, look, hear, and see. I send you to see and speak; I send you to recognize the heartless demons, to name them and hold them accountable. I send you out of your own safe circle, to “hearken to my voice and keep my commandment.”

In the recent words of Pope Leo, *“Let us not be afraid to get our hands dirty on the construction site of our time... let us pray, plan wisely and work perseveringly, placing God at the forefront of our actions and the human person at the center of our choices. Thus the ‘rejected stones’—the poor, the sick, the migrants and the least among us—will become the cornerstone, and a solid welcoming home will emerge on the earth where love and faithfulness will finally meet and peace and justice will embrace...”*

Then at the sight of the crowds our heart will be moved with compassion because they are “troubled and abandoned...” and finally our song

will be true: “We are his people, the sheep of his flock...”

So, despite the many failures, God still offers the possibility of HOPE.

