

# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

**Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

## Mass Schedule:

**Saturday**

5:00 pm

**Sunday**

9:00 & 10:30 am

**Mon-Fri**

8:00 am

**First Saturday Anointing**

After 5:00 pm vigil

**Sacrament of Penance**

By appointment

**Parish website address:**

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Online Giving:**

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Father Anthony email:**

[anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org](mailto:anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org)

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JULY 6, 2025**

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

*"At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit." Luke 10:1*

Jesus had many followers who were deeply devoted to Him, abandoning everything to serve Him and to cooperate in the fulfillment of His mission. Oftentimes we give most of our attention to the Twelve Apostles when we speak of Jesus' first followers. But in today's Gospel, Jesus sent seventy-two disciples to go forth to all the towns that He would soon visit. Think about that for a moment. Seventy-two is quite a few people. These would not have been casual followers of Jesus. Rather, they clearly were all in and fully committed to Christ. To them, Jesus entrusted the mission of preaching and gave them authority over demons.

Try to imagine organizing and sending forth seventy-two different people. Jesus would have come to know these disciples personally, witnessed their faith firsthand, taught them at length, and recognized that they were ready to fulfill His sacred mission. We should also presume that there were many others who were faithful followers but were not yet ready to be entrusted with divine authority and sent on a mission. Thus, the movement that Jesus started was truly transforming for many people during those first years of His public ministry.

The same is true for us today. Jesus is not finished sending missionaries on mission. He continues to gather a vast army of servants whom He calls close to Himself, with whom He establishes a very personal relationship, teaches, forms, bestows with special graces and charisms, and then sends forth to continue His apostolic work. Are we among those who are ready to be sent forth by our Lord?

One way to test our readiness for the mission of Christ is to consider the command that Jesus gave to these seventy-two. He said in part, "Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way." In other words, our Lord was telling them that His mission required sacrifice, courage, trust in divine providence, and single-minded determination. His mission is not for casual followers. It's for those who are serious about their faith and do not hesitate to do all they need to do to get ready to fulfill Jesus' divine command.

Reflect, today, upon whether we are ready to fulfill the apostolic mission Jesus wants to entrust to us. Are we willing to sacrifice everything for this mission? Are we courageous enough to do whatever He calls us to do? Do we trust that God will provide for us so that we can accomplish the task He has given to us? And



are we single-minded and fully determined? Do not hesitate. Place ourselves at the service of our Lord and await His glorious calling in our life. Amen.

## Second Collection Next Weekend

July 4, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

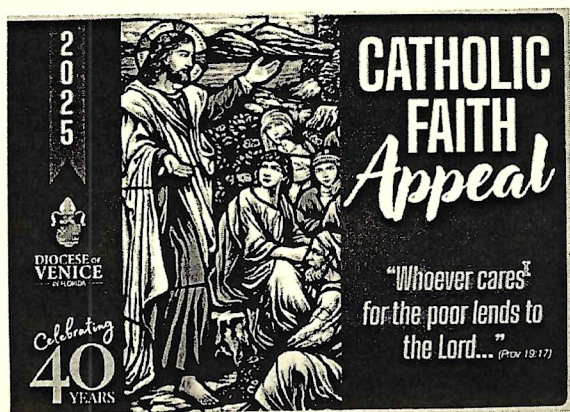
The Catholic Church in Africa continues to grow in spite of the challenges of political unrest, civil and regional wars, as well as social and economic difficulties. Such hardships makes it extremely problematic to meet the extensive pastoral needs of their people.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa provides grants to finance outreach programs, evangelization, education of clergy and lay ministers, as well as schools, which provide religious education for the children. Your donations also provide funds to host projects such as a pro-life conference in Ghana and youth ministry training in Uganda.

The Collection for Solidarity with the Church in Africa will take place the weekend of July 12 and 13, 2025. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this collection. Your support makes a real difference in the faith lives of the people in Africa. Please continue to pray for our African sisters and brothers.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers! May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida



## Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

*Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00*  
*Pledged as of June 21: \$104,515.00*

*Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church or donations can be made online, designate our Lady of Mercy Parish*

*<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>*

**Safe Environment Training (SET)** - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice Requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in SET prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website. To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

*Thank you for sharing your Time, Talent, and Treasure!*