

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Boca Grande, Florida

Father Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday	4:15 to 4:45

Online Giving <https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/>

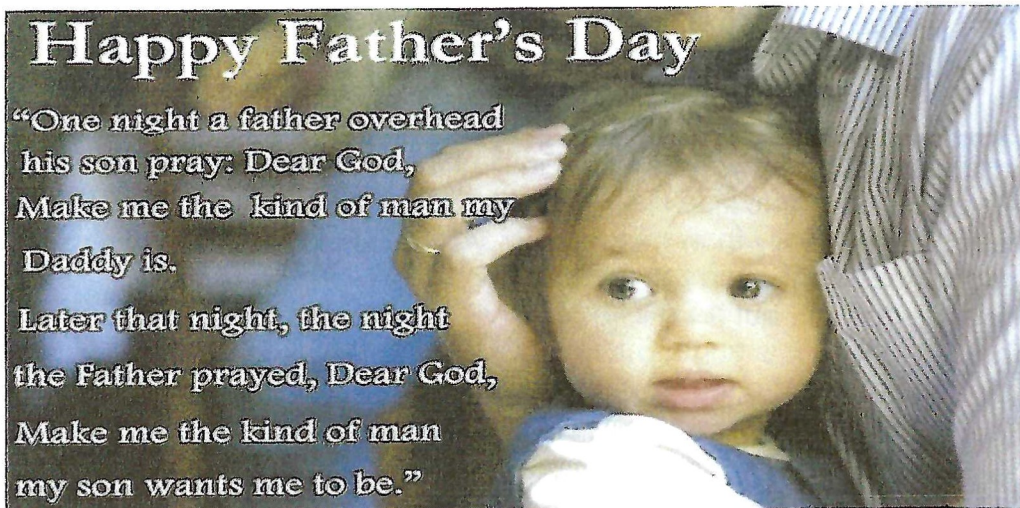
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 18, 2023

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Please join us for a celebration this evening, June 18th from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Parish Life Center to honor Father Carosella for his 35 years of dedication to our parish community. If you wish to attend, please send an email to Ken Parker at kbparker45@gmail.com or call 813-760-8968. Drinks will be provided, please bring an appetizer for 8 to share. There will be a parish wide celebration in the fall for Father's 60th ordination anniversary. Those that are not in town for the retirement celebration will have a chance to visit with him and to honor him at that time.

TO ALL THE DADS



What makes a Dad?
God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew his masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it.....Dad.
Happy Father's Day

SAVE THE LOST SHEEP

The Gospel is from *St. Matthew 9:36, 10:8*. "Jesus had compassion for them." Who were the "crowds" on whom he had compassion? Among them were tax-collectors who cheated, robbers who robbed, murderers who murdered, harlots who lived lives of unchastity, adulterers who violated their marriage vows, nominal believers in God who never went to the temple or honored God in private. These may have been a minority, but there was no town or district in Palestine of that time in which some, or all such sinners, could not be found. Yet Jesus, who read their innermost minds, had pity on them for he saw that most, if not all of these sinners, acted through ignorance and through lack of instruction. They were lost sheep because they had no shepherd to lead them. The exalted opinion of their own sanctity that their official teachers had, caused them to shun the people, lest they be contaminated.

Christ said the harvest of such poor, misguided souls was plentiful and he needed more harvesters. That, indeed, was true in his day, but it is a hundred percent truer today. Any of our modern larger cities today has a population greater than the whole of Palestine in Christ's day. And the percentage of sinners in these cities would be greater, not less, than the percentage of sinners then in Palestine.

Christ too is unchanged. He still has compassion for today's sinners and wants them to be saved, not lost. But for this he needs "harvesters," apostles, who will help him. Here is where all good Christians, all who really love God and their neighbor, must help. He is not asking us to give up our present occupation, or to leave home and family to become priests or missionaries. The work we can do and which he is asking us to do is on our very doorsteps. In some cases it is inside—in our own homes.

The first movement towards this apostolate to our fellow men is to show the good example of a truly Christian life. In the home and in our place of employment, example may go unnoticed or sometimes even be ridiculed by the very ones who need it, but with the grace of God, which always accompanies it, it will eventually produce good fruit. There are thousands of men and women in heaven today who owe their salvation, under God, to the good example of a sincere Christian neighbor. After good example, comes good advice. A suggestion, a hint, an encouragement, kindly and charitably offered, may often turn a neighbor from evil ways. This good advice must always be humbly and charitably given. Nobody, a sinner least of all, wants to be lectured or "preached at." St. Francis de Sales, the gentlest of apostles, said that one will catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a barrel of vinegar. There are pious Christians who abhor sin so much that they abhor and repel the sinner, as well. In this, they are more pharisaical than Christlike. He abhorred sin, but he still loved the sinner and wanted him saved. The harvest is plentiful; indeed it is huge. But let not its huge size frighten us. If everyone reaps his own corner, we shall all meet in the center of the harvest-field some day.
—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.