

## Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering will be a week from today on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and will also meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Bob Montgomery shared on [Regular participation in CCGD and Area events](#) last Sunday. Please click the link to listen as it is a very important topic for us. Other sharings are at the bottom of our home page [GodsDelight.org](#). A simplified version is [here](#) to discern your response.
- Everyone is strongly encouraged to take advantage of the presentations from our Day of Renewal and the blessed insights of Fr. Michal Markiewicz. A special page was created for you to listen [here](#).
- Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team is seeking members to plan our celebration coming up on March 24-26, 2023. Gretchen Montgomery is leading this effort. Contact her to let her know your desire to participate on the team at [gretchenannem@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenannem@gmail.com).
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

In today's [Gospel](#) we read of the mission of the seventy-two. Mission was an important topic in the Word Gift from our last prayer meeting so I think the Holy Spirit would have us pay particular attention to it today. If you have not yet had a chance to re-listen to the Gathering last Sunday or were unable to attend, you can listen to the recording [here](#).

I would like to offer two points. In the first verse of Luke 10 it is noted that Jesus sent them off in pairs. I think this is an important point for us to act upon. It seems to be that God rarely calls us to act alone. The scriptures are full of account after account of God calling a people and calling them to journey to Him, together. We passionately believe God called us to be a people and called us to journey to Him in the North Texas area, together, for our own benefit and to be a force of change and witness as we followed Him, together. If you look back on our history you will notice that the most significant impacts and events that we have made have all happened through our collective yes.

I recall the early days of my men's household experience when the leaders encouraged us to include a brother in our daily activities. We were specifically exhorted to include one other brother in non-work activities when we left the house. At first, I was surprised by the exhortation but in time, as I served, traveled, recreated with guys from the household, I learned a vital lesson...that God can do so much more when we intertwine our lives together and face Him. Our culture, especially now, pushes us toward independence and purports that reliance on others is a bad thing...but I offer that God's plan is different...that He wants us interdependent.

Something to ponder is whether our more affluent environment has made this worse. Do we use money to solve problems that in the past presented us opportunities to serve each other? The point that I am trying to make is that just as Jesus sent the seventy-two out in pairs, I think the Holy Spirit is prompting us in CCGD to pair up. To form pastoral care pairs, service pairs, prayer partner pairs, bible study pairs... We are stronger in our journey if we have a trusted friend, partner, confidant that loves us, that we love, that encourages us, that holds us accountable, that supports us... If we have a good partner, form another, and then another... Ask yourself every day, who can I call to help me, who can I call to offer support?

The second point I offer is to really respond. We hear that the seventy-two go and return. They did it. They didn't study the request, they didn't spend time writing it down, planning, or organizing, they went. When God asks us to do something (as He did at our last Gathering) we can let it go in one ear and out the other. We can assume that He was talking to someone else. We can come up with excuses for not acting. We can even agree with every word of it but decide that we need to really study it more, plan our response, discuss it with others, wait for confirmation after confirmation, ... or we can just do it.

The God of the universe who called us into a covenant relationship wants us to be His witnesses, to really love those around us SO much that they want to know what makes us different. As a Community, He similarly wants us interconnected and loving each other, and those He sends us, SO much that they want to know Him more and understand why we are different.

Sisters and Brothers, we are being sent, just as the seventy-two were sent. How will we respond?

*Let us pray. "I know You are sending me forth. I hear You and commit to responding in a real and specific way today! Show me the specific way I can respond. Give me the courage to say yes. Empower my response with Your Holy Spirit. Turn the hearts of those who do not know You toward You by my response. I love You, use my yes. Amen."*

God Bless,  
David