

Theme: “We walk by faith,
and not by sight.”

June 14, 2015
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezek. 17: 22-24

2 Cor. 5: 6-10

Mk. 4: 26-34

Brothers and Sisters,

Peace to you All!

Great things come from humble beginnings. For example, the **Wright brothers, Orville** (August 19, 1871 – January 30, 1948) and **Wilbur** (April 16, 1867 – May 30, 1912), were two American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful [airplane](#) and making the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air [human flight](#), on December 17, 1903. From 1905 to 1907, the brothers developed their [flying machine](#) into the [first practical fixed-wing aircraft](#). The Wright brothers could have never imagined that their invention would lead to the development of the Airline Industry as we know it today. Though they did not see the modern fruits of their inventions, the pioneering works they did opened up the way for the history of aviation to flourish and benefit humanity.

One of the greatest quotes of the last century was what Neil Armstrong said as he got out of the lunar module and set foot on the moon. The radio recording of NASA said that: “When the lunar module lands at 4:18 p.m. EDT, only 30 seconds of fuel remain. Armstrong radios ‘*Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.*’ And ‘at 10:56 p.m. EDT Armstrong is ready to plant the first human foot on another world. With more than half a billion people watching on television, he climbs down the ladder and proclaims:’ *“That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”* Space exploration was never the same after that.

What has made our country so great was the pioneering spirit of all the immigrants. The first wave came from Europe while the second wave came mostly from Latin America, Asia and Africa. Most of the immigrants who came to this country not only had an eye on the American Dream but had the right pioneering heart and spirit that enabled them to make this dream come true. They put their souls, spirits, energy and enthusiasm into building new lives for themselves and for their families in this land of dreams and opportunities. It was their pioneering spirits that transformed our country into what it is today. Great accomplishments really start from simple and humble beginnings.

Blessed Junipero Serra Ferrer, O.F.M., (November 24, 1713 – August 28, 1784) was a Spanish Franciscan friar who founded a mission in Baja California and the first nine of 21 [Spanish missions in California](#) from [San Diego](#) to [San Francisco](#). Back when the gospel of Christ was not even heard of in the New World, this saintly priest set out to plant the seed of faith in some of the most challenging places on earth. He left behind families, friends and country to plant the seed of faith in the western part of the country. Serra was [beatified](#) by [Pope John Paul II](#) on September 25, 1988 and [Pope Francis](#) expects to [canonize](#) him in September 2015 during his first visit to the United States.

Blessed Junipero Serra is just one example of many other great missionaries that had dedicated their lives to preach the gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth. Starting with the Apostles and Disciples of Our Lord, many great witnesses of Christ had spent and offered their lives for the sake of the gospel. They stand as the monuments and pillars of the faith and their lives inspire many today to follow the examples of their missionary zeal and pioneering spirits.

Today is the eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time and our Sunday readings point to the mission of Jesus from the Father to bring about salvation for all humanity. By His passion, death and resurrection, Jesus saved the world from its sins and opened up the way to salvation to all those who believe in Him. The seed of new life has been sown and the world is awaiting for its budding, growth and fruits in due season. Like the mustard seed in the gospel parable, the seed of faith seems very small and undetectable, unnoticeable and insignificant, but in time it grows to become the tree of life for all those who find comfort, healing and peace in His name. God is making all things new through the gospel of Jesus Christ. And everyone is invited to be part of it. This is the good news of the gospel.

Our Lord Jesus Christ made so huge an impact in the life of man that HIS INCARNATION divided world history into two parts, namely, a) History before His coming=before the common era (BCE), and b) History after His death and rising=during the common era (CE). The gospel which He preached to the peasants of Galilee and Palestine has reached the end of the world through the missionary efforts of simple men and women who, with their own lives, proclaimed it to others. With its humble beginning with twelve simple men whom He called Apostles, Christianity has spread throughout the world and made great impacts in the lives of those who embraced it and were baptized into it. Christians today continue to live “faith and not by sight” until Jesus comes again to judge the living and the dead.

And the seed indeed has been sown in the hearts of men through the proclamation of the gospel. And this will continue to spread to the farthest corners of the universe as long as there are missionaries endowed with the zeal and courage to witness to its beauty, power, authority and promise. It may not lead us to the **American Dream** but it certainly will lead us to the Heavenly One, which is the mother of all dreams. Are you on board? Amen!

With all my prayers,

Fr. Ernie