



## *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

This Sunday, the Church reminds us of our call by God. In the first reading, God chose and called us to be his people through God's covenant with Israel. In the Gospel of Matthew, God called us to be his disciples through Jesus Christ.

God keeps calling us because He loves us and is faithful to us. The great thing about God's love is that it has specificity. It is not general; it is expressed in specific ways. So when Jesus was moved with pity for the crowds, in the Gospel, because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd, he appointed twelve apostles and sent them out on mission.

One of the many specific ways in which Jesus shows us his love is through the priesthood, the gift of priests to his Church. St. James Kansas City has been gifted with the presence and ministry of one beloved priest, Fr. Garry Richmeier, who celebrates the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination this Sunday, June 18. God bless you and your ministry, Fr. Garry. Thank you for reminding St. James that God has not forgotten us, that he bore us on eagles' wings and brought us to himself.

God's call is unique! At Baptism, each of us was called by our new name, as Jesus called the twelve apostles. The call is special and an invitation to lift and help a dejected and abandoned world. It is a call to be faithful shepherds to one another – to be a "FATHER" to each other. It is a call to show mercy and compassion.

As we celebrate "Father's Day", honoring all the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and father-figures, may we remember our call to show God's love to all especially those who feel helpless and hopeless. Happy Father's Day!

*Peace,  
Ben*