

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 14, 2024: Am 7:12-15 | Ps 85:8-14
Eph 1:3-14 | Mk 6:7-13

Pray: Lord, help me surrender in trust and live out my Christian calling to do your Holy Will.

The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's disciples to carry out His mission of mercy and love.

Through baptism, Christians are called to courageously teach and share the Good News of Christ, heal the sick and suffering, and even cast away demons in the footsteps of Jesus and the first twelve apostles. The mission territory was rough for Jesus' disciples as they walked side-by-side with Him in the lead. People kept asking who this Jesus was who preached against the grain of their everyday society. It was not any easier after Christ had ascended to heaven and left them to carry on his mission. Jesus never said it would be easy for any of His disciples, but He promised to send His divine Advocate to help, and the Holy Spirit is here to help all who call upon Him.

God created each of us for a particular time, place, and purpose to fulfill tasks only we can do to make a positive, loving impact on the world. It is no coincidence that we are planted where we are today. Everyone is unique, and the Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts to help us achieve the potential God has for us to help carry out the mission we have been given. Some are responsible for big mission territories, as leaders of a large group of people or even nations. For others, the mission territory may be as small as reaching out to one person at a time who needs God's mercy and love.

Religion and cultural worldviews have vastly changed over the years. Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen saw the beginning of today's crisis in 1974 when he said, "We are at the end of Christendom." He correctly warned of the demise of political, economic, educational, and social life inspired by Christian principles. We are living in a culture throughout much of the world that glorifies freedom by ignoring natural law and discarding the teachings of Christ. We are surrounded by the disintegration of the family unit, divorce, abortion, immorality, self-centeredness, and greed. The world is begging for a savior – the very savior it seems to reject.



Remember, just as God called the apostles, He chose us for this time and this place! We did not call ourselves. God chose us and will empower us to share the wonders of His merciful love with the world around us. Just like the apostles commissioned by Christ, God gives us the grace to cure others in His name through our prayers, loving actions, kindness, encouragement, forgiveness, and second chances. Through our Christ-like love and compassion, we can even cast out demons that often take the form of fear, worry, anxiety, and guilt. The Holy Spirit is ready to help us in this new Apostolic Age of renewal.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone to help someone, and how is the Holy Spirit equipping you for this?
- † How have you felt like the apostles being sent "two by two" to carry the mission to those in need or struggling for whatever reason?
- † What is the wisdom in going two by two in ministry?