

15th Sunday July 14, 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, God calls different people in different ways for the special purpose to fill God's will in our lives. God has called us to share in his ministry and remain faithful to God. In the first reading, prophet Amos was called by God to condemn the cozy life style of priests who supported the king and the rich and ignored the oppression of the poor. Amos defended his prophetic role with courage, clarifying that it was not his choice but his God's choice. Like Amos, each one of us is chosen by God through the mystery of divine adoption in Jesus to become missionaries and to preach the good news by the witness of our Christian lives.

In the second reading, Paul was called by God to advise the Ephesians to count their blessings instead of focusing excessively on their inadequacies and deficiencies. Paul reveals the divine secret to them that God's plan was to save Jews and Gentiles and all people of the world.

In the gospel, Jesus was sent by God to fulfill God's will in our lives. Therefore, Jesus had chosen Apostles to continue God's will from them. Jesus gives instruction to his disciples for their first mission. In what context did it happen? When Jesus was rejected by the people of his hometown, Jesus was not discouraged. Jesus with his disciples went to the neighboring towns and villages with his preaching and healing ministry.

You may have doubt as why did Jesus send the Apostles in pairs? Because according to Jewish Law, two witnesses were needed to pronounce a truth. By his instructions, it is clear that Jesus meant that his disciples should take no supplies for the road, but simply

trust in God for their requirements. God the provider, would open the hearts of believers to take care of the needs of the disciples.

Jesus cautioned his disciples to be free from greed and preoccupation with possessions and have ample room for God's provisions. The Lord wants his disciples to be dependent on God and not on themselves so that God can work through and in each of them for His glory.

Are you ready to handle the power and the authority which God wishes you to exercise on his behalf? The Lord entrusts us with his gifts and talents. Are you eager to place yourself at his service, to do whatever he bids you, and to witness his truth and saving power to whomever and wherever he sends you?

We are called to share with others not just words or ideas, or doctrines but an experience. Our experience of God and His son, Jesus, like the apostles, like St. Francis of Assisi, like blessed Mother Teresa, we are all chosen and sent to proclaim the gospel through our lives. It is through our transparent Christian lives that we must show in our own actions the love, mercy and concern of Jesus for the people around us.

Let us ask Jesus gives us this mass to witness of his gospel in our day to day life.