

**July 15, 2018**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**From the Desk of Rev. Anthony Columba Ekanem MSP:**

**WORKING FOR CHRIST**

We come to the Lord at His invitation, to receive from Him and to go out witness to others the gifts we have received from Him in love.

In the first reading, we hear Amos being sent by God to prophesy to the people of Israel. While in the Gospel, we have the sending out of the Twelve by Jesus.

Amos was a prophet by divine call. In his case had come to a poor, unsophisticated shepherd and ‘dresser of sycamore trees’, to total outsider to the ranks of professional prophets. Much the same could be said about the men Jesus chose ‘to go with Him. Jesus having instructed them, the time had come for them to take an active part in His ministry. Their mission was an extension of His own mission, and He gave them the power to accomplish this.

In understanding His instructions as to what they were to take with them, we must remember that this was only a temporary mission, of short duration and limited to the surrounding Jewish towns and villages.

The mission in the first place was a spiritual one – to preach repentance and the imminent coming of the kingdom of God. But it is also concerned with the physical and mental healing. This shows that Christianity is concerned with people’s spiritual well – being and with the physical well – being of the whole person.

They were to bring no material things with them to give to the people. In any case, their message must sell itself on its own merits, and has to be accepted principally for spiritual reason.

Jesus is encouraging us to rely on the hospitality and generosity of the people to whom we are being sent and more importantly on divine providence. This is a good lesson for us today especially during this summer time in our vacation plans to ask ourselves this questions:

“ Where do we place God in our vacation plans? “ How do we receive and share what they offer us?

**Collection:** The collection for last Sunday, July 8, 2018 was \$3,242.

**2nd Collection:** This Sunday’s 2nd collection will be our Monthly Church Property Insurance Collection.

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** The missionary life is a difficult life. God sent Amos on a mission to Bethel, where he was told to go home and never come back. Jesus told his disciples to journey without food, without possessions, without money, without even a change of cloths. But in between we hear Saint Paul, probably the foremost Christian missionary, blessing God for all that God has done for us. We are still and always a missionary people, facing hardships but knowing the richness of God’s grace.

**First Reading: Amos 7:12-15:** Go, prophesy to my people.

**Responsorial Psalm: 85:** “Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.”

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14:** God chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world.

**Gospel: Mark 6:7-13:** He began to send them out.

**Registration** for next year’s Religious Education Program will begin on June 11th and run until August 10th -new parents to the program need to bring their child's birth certificate and a copy of the baptismal certificate. There will be a fee of \$25.00 per child at the time of registration for both returning parents and new parents to the program which is non-refundable.

Registration Fees are as follows:

Registration for one child is \$100.00

Registration for two children is \$ 175.00

Registration for three or four children is \$ 200.00

If your child will be receiving one of the following Sacraments the fees are as follows:

Holy Communion fee is \$80.00 per child .

Confirmation fee is \$100.00 per child.

**Mass Schedule for the week of**

**July 15, 2018 to July 22, 2018**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm**

**Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

**Sunday July 15, 2018:**

7:30am For the Parishioners

9:00 am Bernardo Lazaro Torres

Maria Torres

11:00 am Joseph Santangelo

Family

**Monday July 16, 2018:**

12:05 pm Deogracias Religioso

A. Hernandez

**Wednesday July 18, 2018:**

12:05 pm Sister Eileen Egan

Michael & Margaret Naughton

**Thursday July 19, 2018:**

7:00 pm Ramon Figueroa

Martha Figueroa & Family

**Friday July 20, 2018:**

12:05 pm Candido Castro

A. Hernandez

**Saturday July 21, 2018:**

5:00 pm Mary & Stella Mustazza

John Prato

7:30pm Anita Martinez

Family

**Sunday July 22, 2018:**

7:30am For the Parishioners

9:00 am In Thanksgiving

Gracias Santo

11:00 am Joseph Santangelo

Vito Cannito

**Parish Membership:** All adult Catholics should be registered. We want to know and serve you and hope that you will become an active member of our parish community. Please notify the office of any changes in address, or if you are leaving the Parish. It is necessary to be a registered member of our parish for a minimum of 3 months in order for us to testify to your ability to be a sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation, witness to a Catholic marriage, or provide recommendation for a position at work or character reference.