

Homily. 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.B. 10/11 July 2021.

It's a bit of a challenge these days, at times fraught even, to be going out while we are living through the most serious and deadly global pandemic since the Spanish Flu struck over 100 years ago. Still, that is what Jesus says we are to do; go out in His name and Spirit bringing God's healing, mercy and Good News to others.

By virtue of our faith, our Baptism and because we have been chosen by God to find our life and salvation in Jesus Christ, we are the apostles of this age, the messengers of God's word to the people of this time. Like Amos of old, we need to present ourselves to others, and listened to or not, let people understand that they have in us a prophet and spokesperson of God in their midst.

In a similar vein, we have to heed the advice of Jesus, going out to others with just two things in our kit bag; reliance on God's goodness and care for us, and sure solidarity in faith and friendship with one another. With these two things in place our mission will reap a harvest. Without them, we may as well stay at home with our doors locked and the TV on.

Our mission, wherever it happens, begins as a free gift to us, a grace and blessing from God in our lives that demands sharing. We are partners with our Lord and one another because of this gifting and blessing, never needing to be alone as we try in our own ways to unite those divided and strengthen those who have become lost and weak.

I ask you, how else can God reach, speak to and touch people today except through us who have become God's children in Christ, His living body in the world? Let's remember that every effort we make to grow and deepen our faith by practicing and sharing it is the work of God's Spirit in our lives. This is why we have no cause to worry about how people respond to us. We freely give what we have so freely received, leaving the response, be it positive or not, to the free choice of others. We aren't sent out to force or compel people to believe what we offer, but rather to invite, attract and entice our brothers and sisters to come and experience the mercy and love of the Lord for themselves.

If we're after a pattern to follow for our mission then we need look no further than the Eucharist. It comes as a blessing and gift, God's life in Christ shared with us at no cost to ourselves. Just think about how lucky we are in this place and time that every day and each weekend this grace is provided to us. All that we have to do is to turn up with a grateful heart and open mind and participate in what is happening.

Our response to God is itself a work of the Holy Spirit, tirelessly trying to transform our attitudes and vision until we grow to have the mind and heart of the Lord Himself. In a similar way we make the same offer to those we meet and deal with each day confident that God's Kingdom, a reign of oneness that only God can bring about, will come as God pleases and in God's appointed time.