**Homily** **for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Rev. Francis D. Kim*

        In today’s readings, we see the theme of being called is readily apparent. In the first reading, the prophet Amos explains he has been called by God to bring His word to the people. In the second reading, the theme of call is emphasized as we are reminded that God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

        And, in the Gospel, Jesus summons the Twelve. He instructs them, gives them authority, and sends them out two by two to preach repentance, to cure the sick, and to expel demons.

        Similarly, each of us is called by virtue of baptism. Then, what comes to mind when you hear the phrase ‘being called a disciple’?

        Maybe you think of missionaries or priests. Maybe you think of qualifications like seminary training, a holy life, or a solid knowledge of God’s word. Or maybe you think of people who are younger and healthier than you, or older and more experienced than you as the people God can use most effectively.

        But, listen: God wants to use you right where you are. Every day you probably come in contact with people who will never enter a Church, never talk with a priest, or never open a Bible, and God wants to use you to point them to Christ and His love. You may be the bridge that God uses to bring them to Himself.

        Be alert for opportunities to share the Good News of God’s love with others, even today. Never underestimate what God can do through even your smallest effort to reach out to others in the name of Jesus.

        Our “yes” to God, our answering His call, ensures that His healing and His great love are always available to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember. God has a plan for your lives.

        As Christians, we are on a journey. We are not wanderers, but pilgrims and missionaries. We have a purpose and a goal in our lives. If the Lord gives you a mission, He will also give you the resources and the grace to carry it out.

        So, today, in the Gospel, Jesus gives us three particular instructions for our journey of faith: carrying the walking stick, traveling two by two, and shaking the dust from unresponsive towns. Each of these evokes three important helps to the Christian life to help us on our way to heaven.

        First, we have the walking stick. Jesus tells us to take no food, no traveling bag, and not even any money. The one thing is a walking stick that will help us keep our balance on the rough way. Our walking stick is a trust in God’s providence.

        A lot of things are happening in our lives, and sometimes we lose our balance and fall down. So, we need to trust in God’s will. That is our ‘walking stick’ that will help us wherever we go. Trust in God.

        Second, Jesus sends out His disciples two by two. This is a very obvious reason that they needed each other. We also need each other for our spiritual journey. We need to help and support each other. That is what the community of the Church is for. We need each other.

        And, third and last instruction is to shake from their feet the dust of a town that will not listen and move on. We need to be sure that we do our best and then move on. There are other towns, other opportunities, and other people waiting to hear the Good News and receive God’s love.

        For our journey of faith, we need walking stick, the trust in God’s will and providence, and we need help and support each other, and prayer for each other, and we need to go forward to other opportunities to share God’s love with others.

        But, as you know, it is not easy to be a disciple. Even when being a disciple of Jesus is difficult, though, it is important to remember that God loves you and He is with you. He has a plan for you that includes being happy and blessed, being redeemed from sin and death, being forgiven, and being lavished with grace.

        Just keep saying “yes” to God’s call. Be like Amos, St. Paul, and the Apostles, and keep saying “yes” to our Father in heaven. Then, you will produce abundant fruits in your life. It is God’s promise and His plan for you. Remember He is with you always!