

JULY 15, 2018



# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



AMOS 7:12-15

PSALM 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

MARK 6:7-13

## REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out the Apostles two by two. The footnotes in the *New American Bible* explain that this mission of the Apostles is a culmination of a three-step process of formation: (1) call: Jesus calls the Apostles to follow him and be fishers of men [and women] (see Mark 1:16-20); (2) prepare: Jesus takes time to be alone with the Apostles where he prepares them to receive authority to preach and expel demons (see Mark 3:13-19); (3) send: in today's Gospel we see Jesus sending out the Apostles two by two as his representatives.



Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has firmly taught that all the baptized are called to participate in Christ's mission. This is the evangelizing mission of the Church. Have you been baptized? Do you consider yourself by virtue of this Baptism a missionary disciple? One of my college students said this in class: "So the point of Christianity is not going to church, but being the Church." Pope Francis says this clearly: "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients" (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 120).

## ACTION

Pope Francis challenges all members of the Church to take up this missionary discipleship. He is challenging us to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ in the world. He is challenging us to go out "above all" to the poor and sick. This is a very big challenge. What is your response?

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Who are the poor and the sick in your community that you could help? Who is a person who would go with you on this mission, so we could go forth two by two?