

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings remind us of our Divine adoption as God's children and of our call to preach the Good News of Jesus by bearing witness to God's love, mercy and salvation as revealed through Jesus. "*God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.*" (Eph1:4).

*We, too, have a witnessing mission:* Each Christian is called not only to be a disciple but also to be an apostle. As disciples, we are to follow Jesus and imitate Jesus. As apostles, we are to evangelize the world. 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, we are all chosen and sent to proclaim the Gospel through our living. 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.

Since we are baptized, Jesus is calling us in our working and living environment to evangelize, to invite people to know Jesus, to love him, to serve him and to follow him. An important part of evangelism is the simple act of inviting a friend or family member to join us in worship. This is where reconciliation between persons and God is most likely to take place. We do not have to commit verbal assault on someone with our convictions. A simple invitation offered, out of a loving and joyful heart is the most powerful evangelistic message of all.

*We have a liberating mission:* Although many people don't believe in real demonic possession in our age, there are many demons, which can control the lives of people around us making them helpless slaves. For example, there are the demons of greedy, materialism and consumerism, hatred, jealousy, racial prejudice or of any other activity, which somehow can take control of people's lives and become an addiction over which they have no control. All of these, or any one of them, can turn people into slaves.

We need the help of Jesus to liberate us and others from these things. Jesus is inviting us today to cooperate with him. He wants us to be his instruments of liberation, to help others recover their freedom. We are meant to help people to cure their sicknesses, not only the bodily sicknesses but psychological and emotional illnesses as well. As a family member, a friend, a colleague, an evangelizer, when we work with Jesus, we can truly have a healing influence.

*We have a mission to live as children of God:* Realization of our dignity as children of God should change our outlook on life. We are to be children, filled with love, rather than selfishness and disobedience. We are to respect our brothers and sisters in Christ. As God's children, we should live a life of absolute trust in the goodness of our Heavenly Father, who knows what is best for us. The realization that we are the children of God should bring us great comfort, peace and joy even in our worst moments.

*We have a mission to grow in Divine adoption:* It is in the Church mainly through the seven Sacraments that our Divine adoption is made possible. We are chosen by God in Christ, we are baptized into his death and his Church, we are healed by his forgiveness, and we are nourished at the Eucharistic table. Today, when we gather as His adopted sons and daughters at this table of Christ's sacrificial banquet, we can rightly address God as our Divine Father and ask Him for the special anointing of the Holy Spirit that we may grow daily in the true spirit and practice of our Divine adoption.

## **Prayer**

Send forth your messengers O Lord to proclaim your merciful love. Grant that we may be always conscious and faithful to our baptismal call to be sent out as apostles to continue your mission. Give us the courage to proclaim the constant need of reform and renewal in human society and the Church and their purification from all that is evil. Purify our motive so that we do our mission work with a spirit of detachment from worldly possessions and total trust in you. Amen.