

*Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

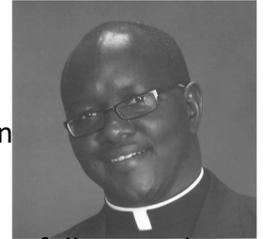
July 11, 2021

Jesus summoned
the Twelve
and began to
send them out
two by two
and gave them
authority over
unclean spirits.

Mark 6:7



Dear St Bridget Family,



Welcome to the Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The gospel reading today presents to us the account of the first commissioning of the twelve by Jesus. This commissioning was in preparation for the final and great commissioning. Whenever we read or hear of 'the Twelve,' we know that it is a reference to the Twelve Apostles. The word **Apostle** simply means one who is sent or a messenger. On the other hand, a **Disciple** refers to a student or a follower. The twelve were both disciples and apostles. In fact, all of us Christians are called to be disciples (that means to follow and learn from Jesus). In our respective ways, whether big or small, we are apostles, which means we are sent to bring the good news of salvation to others.

Before sending out His disciples on their apostolic work, Jesus gave them specific instructions. They were to take nothing for the journey except a staff, which symbolizes authority. The words of Jesus ought not to be taken literally. In other words, He charged them to travel light. What Jesus was pointing out to them was poverty of the spirit; the effectiveness of their mission does not depend on material wealth but on their total dependence on God, the sender. This is what detachment is. An Apostle is called to be detached from mundane things and to be attached to Jesus, the Lord. That is called faith, trust and confidence.

Detachment or poverty of the spirit frees the one who is sent from greed and preoccupation with his possession and makes ample room for God's provision. Jesus wants His apostles to be dependent on Him, attached to Him and detached from what they possessed. It is by so doing that the Apostle enjoys true peace and is able to announce peace.

In the first reading, Prophet Amos was a Shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. He detached from these gainful occupations and got attached to God. He was able to move from Judah to the northern Kingdom of Israel. He had peace and fulfilment and was able to represent the mind of God. Amaziah was a Priest who served in the King's sanctuary and in the royal temple of the northern Kingdom of Israel. His job was to prophesy to the king and tell him only what is palatable, because even a wicked person wants a quiet conscience. Amaziah did not have peace and fulfilment. He was attached to the bread he earned from the king and saw the presence of Amos as a threat. He charged Amos to go back to Judah and earn his bread there, since he was already earning his own bread in the King's sanctuary. His attachment to material possession did not bring him peace. But Amos had true peace because of his attachment to God.

My dear brothers and sisters, detachment or poverty of the spirit engenders a reliance on Divine Providence. This is a state of mind, or disposition whereby one lives in a certain peace of mind, not worrying oneself but rather having the conviction that God will provide. This is called an act of disposition of **Faith**. A perfect example is found in our Father in Faith, Abraham, when he was called to offer sacrifice of his only son Isaac to God (Gen. 22:7-8). Isaac correctly noticed that something vital was lacking.

Abraham knew all these fears and probably even more, yet he had the courage to say: God will provide. The reality of Divine Providence is seen in Abraham when exactly at the hour it was needed, the ram came, perfectly provided by God.

Therefore as we continue on our journey of faith and especially as we strive to know and do God's Will, it is important for us to know and trust that He will always provide in ways and means even beyond our comprehension. In so doing, we shall bear much fruit as His disciples and apostles.

Thanks and God bless,

Fr Simon Peter

Strange Instructions

Look at the instructions that Jesus gives as his disciples set out on the mission! He tells them to carry nothing except a walking stick and sandals. Isn't that strange! We know too well that we need certain material goods in order to live; we need to eat, to dress and we need shelter, to mention but just some. Similarly, we need some material goods also to be able to carry out the mission. We know too well how in some places pastoral agents are struggling due to lack of material goods necessary for their work. They are looking for support. How then do we understand the instructions that Jesus gives? Doesn't he appreciate the importance of such material goods?

Instructions in the light of the mission

Certainly, Jesus does not doubt the importance of the material needs, nevertheless, he wants to make it clear to them that the mission that he entrusts them is quite urgent, and it demands that the disciples be ever mobile, available and free. That's why, on one hand, Jesus warns against whatever may be burdensome for it will only risk preventing the disciples from advancing in their work. And on the other hand, he tells them to carry the walking stick and sandals. Why? These are things that support the walking. So, we can say, Jesus is asking the disciples to give priority to things that will be helpful in their mission and leave behind whatever may be hindering them.

In a way, it's an invitation to reconsider our priorities. Indeed, many are the things that are necessary in our life, yet, depending on our attitude to them, they may get on our way and thus obstruct us from living truly as disciples of Jesus. In our effort to respond to legitimate needs we may risk forgetting about our mission. So, each one can ask oneself: what are the things that help me to move forward in my life? What are the things that hinder me? And what are those things robbing the place of God in my life? Such discernment is necessary, otherwise, we find ourselves like the people at Bethel. What's happening there?

Go away from here!

Jesus warns the disciples that it's not everyone who will readily welcome their message -there will be opposition. The people of his own town refused to believe in him (Last Sunday's Gospel) and we find similar refusal, in the First Reading, Amos is not accepted as prophet. Let's see what's happening in the First Reading.

We are at Bethel, a place of cult established by the king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Why? There was only one temple in Jerusalem where everyone offered sacrifice and payed also the temple tax. That gave some importance and prosperity to the South more than the North. To prevent people of his kingdom from continuing going to the south, king Jeroboam established two centres of worship in the north, Bethel and Dan; and he recruited his priests and prophets. These priests and prophets never spoke up against the injustice in their society, neither did they speak about the misery in which the ordinary people lived. To please the king, apparently, was the only role that these men of God played at Bethel. They had become corrupt. That's why Amos, a cultivator from the South, was called and sent to go and denounce the injustice in the northern kingdom. But he met vicious reaction more from priests and prophets than from the ordinary people; those who benefited from the corrupt system felt threatened. Go back to your country, they rejected him, there in the South you will do your job as prophet -not here! That's the challenge of the prophet. We have a choice, to speak the truth with courage, or to fall into what everyone else is doing. As for Amos, he remains firm in his response to the opposition: I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet -I was only a herdsman and a tender of sycamore trees. But the Lord took me and said to me, go, you will be my prophet to my people Israel.

How focused are you?

Even today God is looking at us, but are we free enough to be prophets who speak the truth and denounce the injustice? The people at Bethel don't want to be disturbed in their unjust and corrupt practices; and me, am I ready to welcome the word of God, especially when it comes to disturb my inclinations?

Dear sister, dear brother; as Christians are pilgrims ever on the move towards our conversion. Let's have, as Jesus recommends, the walking stick in our hands and sandals on our feet so that we can resolutely move forward without allowing anything to deter us.

God is good — All the time

Attention Catholic School Parents

Parents of students in Catholic School grades 2, 10, and 11 MUST register their children with the local church parish for Sacraments (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation). Please contact Miss Bernadette for more details.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Come Lord Jesus—a scripture study focusing on the weekly readings is held on Monday's from 9 AM –10:30 AM. Call 446-9096 for more information.

The Rosary is prayed every Wednesday and Friday after the 8 am Mass. All are invited to join in this experience.



We are excited to announce the return of a singing choir during our Sunday Masses here at St. Bridget! We are in need of more music ministers to make this dream a reality. Music is such an important part of our Eucharistic celebration, and what better time to share your gifts than when you are immersed in the Holy Spirit! Whether your skills are vocal, instrumental, organizational, or computer based, we'd love to have you! Please reach out to the church office or to Mark Olin at markloriolin@gmail.com. Music Meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Join us!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

All previous Safe Environment Certificates expired on June 30th, 2021. All staff and volunteers should complete training at safeandsacred-htdiocese.org



The July Lector List has been emailed. If anyone is interested in becoming a lector and being put on the lector list, please contact Melissa Pierce @ 985-696-9344.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

WHO: AGES 10 AND OLDER
WHAT: GOSPEL STUDY WITH MRS. WANDA LEBLANC
WHEN: FRIDAYS IN JULY 5:30—7:30
WHERE: DIDIER HALL

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | (Amos 7:12-15)

PSALM | Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85)

SECOND READING | (Ephesians 1:3-14 [3-10])

GOSPEL | (Mark 6:7-13)

GOD CHOSE US

Who chose first, God or you? That is the question explored in today's three readings. The second reading, from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, reads almost like a hymn. It praises God for choosing us, for calling us to serve, and for blessing us in our service. Paul makes it clear how honored we are and how special is the call to live as children of God. This is through no doing of our own.

The first reading and the Gospel use prose rather than poetry to describe the same truth: God did the choosing, not us. When the prophet Amos was berated for being a prophet, he retorted that the whole thing wasn't his idea in the first place. Neither did the twelve apostles in today's Gospel ask for their calling. Jesus sent them forth, two by two, to do the work of his kingdom.

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FEAST OF FAITH

Invitation to the Eucharistic Prayer

After the presider washes his hands, he turns to the people and says, "Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father." We have brought forward bread and wine, and now we are asked to see in these simple gifts upon the altar a sacrifice offered to God. Our response is rich in theological meaning. "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands." The words point to the unique role of the priest, whose hands, at his ordination, were anointed for just this purpose: that he might "sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God" (Rite of Ordination). We ask God to accept our sacrifice not because it is worthy of God, but simply "for the praise and glory of his name." God does not need our offering, but allows us to give it so that we might grow in holiness. And God, never to be outdone in generosity, gives all that we have given back to us, "for our good and the good of all his Church." This Mass benefits not just those who have gathered, but, in the mysterious economy of grace, the whole Church. In the words of Saint Paul, when one part rejoices, the whole body "share[s] its joy" (1 Corinthians 12:26). —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MONDAY | Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1

TUESDAY | Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY | Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27

THURSDAY | Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30

FRIDAY | Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8

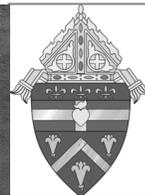
SATURDAY | Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Mt 12:14-21

SUNDAY | Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34



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“For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:31-32). With joy every year we celebrate the way couples who have reached significant milestones in their sacramental marriages reflect the mystery of the relationship between Christ and his bride, the church. This year again, on **Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral** we will celebrate a Liturgy of the Word with couples who have lived the commitment of sacramental marriage for 25, 40, 50 or 60+ years. Please be reminded that participants in this Liturgy of the Word will need also to participate in Mass either at the vigil on Saturday afternoon or during the day Sunday. All information regarding the celebration, registration process and registration forms can be found at the following web address: <https://www.htdiocese.org/diocesan-wedding-anniversary>

Christian Giving

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JUNLY 4TH, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 4,105.00
Collections	\$ <u>369.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,474.00

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!**

2021 | ST BRIDGET'S 110TH ANNIVERSARY!

May this anniversary year bring a fresh start, new aspirations and inspiring success to our parish. Let us walk with grace and achieve greater heights.



Our Father in Heaven, through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us during this hurricane season from all harm.

Protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

Welcome All!

WEEKDAY MASSES
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8 AM

WEEKEND MASSES
SATURDAY | 4 PM
SUNDAY | 8:30 AM
10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS
SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM
SUNDAY | 7:30 AM — 8:20 AM
10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

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WEBSITE | [HTTPS://STBRIDGET-HTDIOCESE.ORG](https://stbridget-htdiocese.org)

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

July 11th—July 17th Harold Callahan Sr. by Sandra and Richard Picou
 Ernest Mabile by Bernadette Mabile
 Anthony “Rod” Rodrigue
 Leonard Pollet (WA) by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Owen and Max

MASS INTENTIONS

July 10th	4 PM	Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and Family Ernest Mabile by Bernadette Mabile
July 11th	8:30 AM	Pat Olivier by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Owen and Max Carlos Ramon Leon Diaz
	10:30 AM	Alicia Weimer by Cindy Poiencot
July 12th	8 AM	Aimzy Olivier (B) by Earline and Family
July 13th	8 AM	Carlos Ramon Leon Diaz
July 14th	8 AM	Anthony “Rod” Rodrigue
July 15th	8 AM	Carlos Ramon Leon Diaz
July 16th	8 AM	William M Jeff and Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit Carmel Boudreaux (B) by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Owen and Max
July 17th	4 PM	Rudy, Eric, and Wendy Thibodaux by Family Diane Templet (DA) by Charles and Anita Cavalier
July 18th	8:30 AM	Jimmy Coupel by Diana Bailly and Family Oliver and Alice Olin (DA) by Olin Family Marion Knight by Godfrey Knight Gary Eusea by Lady Pierson Laurie Hebert by Mom and Dad
	10:30 AM	Claire Babin by Bobette Talbot

PRAYER LINE

To be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206 or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Lynn Bonneval, Aline Boudreaux, Emile “Jay” Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery “Brother” and Sonja Fonseca, Melissa Fontana Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Cheryl Henderson, Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Keith Matherne, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Toups, Joyce Toups, Ricky Turner, Suzanne Usey, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Anna Wooten. **Please notify the office when names can be removed.**

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