

July 11, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Am 7:12-15

Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10

Mk 6:7-13



So they went off and
preached repentance.
They drove out many
demons, and they
anointed with oil many
who were sick and
cured them.
MARK 6:12-13

You Can Do It

Today's readings are about unpretentious people who accomplished remarkable deeds. Amos, a shepherd from the southern kingdom of Judah who also cultivated sycamore figs, challenged the people at a northern shrine in Israel. He did not come from an illustrious family, nor was he particularly important. Yet he is the one called by God to summon the northern Israelites to repentance.

The disciples of Jesus pursued family businesses like fishing or were employed by the Romans like Matthew. They didn't come from socially prominent families, nor were they known as community leaders. But look at what they did: they cast out demons and cured the sick. Where did these people get their training? More importantly, where did they obtain their power? We find the answer to such questions in the second reading: "In him we were also chosen" (Ephesians 1:11).

The Ephesians letter assures us that God "has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens" (1:3). We don't have to worry about performing miracles; all we have to do is open ourselves to the graciousness of God. God will do the rest. Through us, God will cast out the demons of prejudice and bias that plague our world, of selfishness and spitefulness so prominent in our political rivalries, of greed and dishonesty in many of our social interactions. Through us, God will heal our country, our world, and our Church of hatred, violence, and oppression. With Amos and the Twelve we too hear: "You can do it."

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✧ In what ways do you make the world better?
- ✧ Do you realize that you have the power of God to transform the world?

Dear Padre,

At my church, some people take the votive candles out of the holders and place them next to the statues and icons. Does this make God or the saint pay more attention to the petition? And isn't doing that a fire hazard?

Vigil lights, commonly known as votive candles, are usually lit when a person seeks some favor from the Lord or a saint's intercession. Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

In the lighting of candles we remember and truly live the words of our Lord,

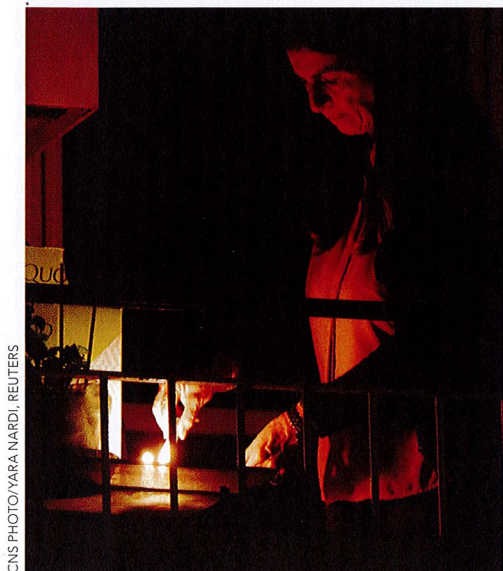
"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). We burn candles to symbolize the rising of our prayers to heaven day and night. Prayers for the saints' intercession are also common because of their friendship with God in heaven. Saints are powerful intercessors.

God hears all prayers uttered in sincerity. Burning a candle as we pray doesn't make that prayer more important than prayers offered without a candle; neither does moving the candle to the front of the line.

If your church has made sure that the placing of the votive candles complies

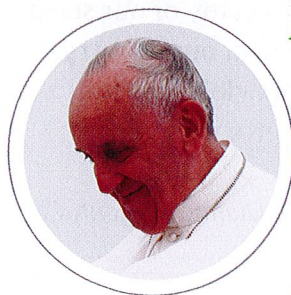
with local fire regulations, you have no worries about setting a fire with vigil lights.

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CNS PHOTO/YARA NARDI, REUTERS

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people—often forgotten people—who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines...doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.

EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER, MARCH 27, 2020

Calendar

Monday

JULY 12

Weekday

Ex 1:8–14, 22

Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

JULY 13

Weekday

Ex 2:1–15a

Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

JULY 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin

Ex 3:1–6, 9–12

Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

JULY 15

St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of
the Church

Ex 3:13–20

Mt 11:28–30

Friday

JULY 16

Weekday

Ex 11:10–12:14

Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

JULY 17

Weekday

Ex 12:37–42

Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

JULY 18

Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Jer 23:1–6

Eph 2:13–18

Mk 6:30–34

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the lens of Catholic
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