

The twenty sixth Sunday in the ordinary time of the year, B.

(Nm 11:25 – 29; Ps 19:8,10,12–13,14; Jas 5:1 – 6; Mk 9:38 –43,45,47– 48)

The Lord chooses whoever he wants (*Rom 9:8*).

The Spirit of the Lord blows where He wills (*John 3:8*).

Brethren, the two quotations (*Romans 9:8 and John 3:8*) offer us a wonderful summary of this weekend's scripture readings. In the first reading, the Lord generously shares His Spirit He had showered upon Moses on the seventy elders... and they prophesied. Surprisingly, the Spirit of the Lord is not limited to the chosen seventy but blows on *Eldad* and *Medad* who are not with the chosen group but left in the camp. They too, start to prophesy. This upsets those organizing the liturgy; lead by *Nun* (son of *Joshua*), they cry out to Moses to Stop them! Moses understands it but wishes the Spirit of the Lord to be on all people.

Likewise in the gospel, someone outside the seventy-two known disciples of the Lord, is driving out demons in the name of Jesus. The disciples tried to stop him. The response of the Lord is that the Spirit chooses whoever he wants and blows wherever He wills. Any sincere good done (*without any hidden agenda*) is motivated by the absolute Good, the Lord Himself. No one has monopoly of the Lord. We are all God's children and God can use each one of us as he wants. Remember, in the Bible many pagan nations played a role of fulfilling God's plans by intervening in the lives of the Israelites at a given time as God wished. God can communicate to us at any time, in any place and on any occasion, through anyone. Even the little ones can be agents of God's messages. Our task is to focus on the message and be able to discern God's will revealed to us.

The Spirit of the Lord can still work through you and me. Yes, it is true we are unworthy, just as we acknowledge our sinfulness at the beginning of our liturgy (*Holy Mass*). On the other hand, we should remember that each one of us can become God's instrument. When God calls us on a mission, He is more interested in what we are going to become if we accept to be molded, rather than what we are. We are all God's messengers. **Amen.**

Fr. Luigi G. Ssensamba