

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 15, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

"The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me,
Go, prophesy to my people Israel." (Am 7:15)

Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Second Reading:

In him we have redemption by his blood,
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace. (Eph 1:7)

Gospel:

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two
and gave them authority over unclean spirits?
The Twelve drove out many demons,
and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. (Mk 6:7, 13)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of July 15, 2018

Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34--11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34

Observances for the Week of July 15, 2018

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Tuesday: - - -

Wednesday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Thursday: - - -

Friday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr

Saturday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

July 15, 2018 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two." This Sunday we read the first sending of the Apostles to preach, teach, and heal. For many of us, it can be easy to think we "just don't have enough" to be disciples and evangelists ourselves. We don't have enough education and training. We don't have enough experience talking to people about Jesus. We don't pray enough. We don't have enough faith.

If you look at the Apostles in today's Gospel reading, they didn't have much either. "No food, no sack, no money in their belts." They didn't plan out their itinerary or book their lodging in advance. From what we know of the Apostles, they were not the religiously trained and educated ones. They were fisherman, tax collectors, and political activists. But what does being a fisherman require? Someone like Peter needed a strong work ethic to rise at strange hours. He needed patient calm to wait for the catch. Once ashore, he needed a savvy mind to fetch a good price for his labors.

As Peter became a fisher of men, he would need diligence to persevere through the hard journeys, long days, and persecution that awaited him. He would need patient calm with those who disagreed with him. As the leader of the Apostles, he would need a savvy mind to navigate challenges facing the early Church. From one perspective, Peter has nothing to offer the mission of Jesus. Thinking more creatively, one can see that -- joined with faith and love -- perhaps Peter had everything he needed.

Jesus sends you as well. As you take stock of your own talents, consider how they might be offered as a gift to others. Maybe you already have more than enough.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Do you describe yourself as a holy person? For many, becoming holy may not be seen as a desirous goal. We are all called to be holy but maybe not in the way we often imagined. Holiness is nothing more than doing ordinary things with great love and faith. St. Teresa of Calcutta says, "Holiness is not something extraordinary. Holiness is for every one of us as a simple duty -- the acceptance of God with a smile, at all times, anywhere and everywhere." Holiness has to do with understanding that our faith has a lot to do with how we see and live life. It is that simple. Are you willing to go about the simple business of your life and be holy?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I recently got into an Uber car for a ride to the airport. I like talking with drivers if I sense they are open to it. On this particular day, the driver was very talkative and told me about how he was an inventor. He had several patents and was about to sell one of his inventions for a ton of money. We had a wonderful conversation, and he was such a warm and interesting person. I asked him why, with his good fortune with inventions and all the work he was doing aside from Uber, he was still driving. He smiled and said, "There are still some people I haven't met yet. I never know who is going to get into my car next."

What an amazing answer! Too often we live our lives in semi-solitude, walking around with blinders on so we don't make eye contact. We have our family and friends, but we don't get up each day wondering with excitement who we will meet that day. God puts people into our path all the time. Maybe we need them or they need us. But we do not walk through this world alone. If we choose to not be mindful of who is in our midst, we miss the chance to receive whatever gifts they may have to give. In the same vein, they miss out on what we have to share with them if we stay closed and quiet. Pay attention to those around you. God may come to you in the words of a friend, the request of a homeless man, or in the wisdom of an Uber driver.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

The priest Amaziah of Bethel was not supportive of the prophet Amos. How do you react to the words of the Old Testament prophets?

Second Reading

Today we hear the opening words of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. This was likely one of the primitive hymns of the early Church. In what way is this really a Trinitarian hymn of praise?

Gospel Reading

Jesus commissioned the Twelve Apostles to preach repentance, exorcise demons, and heal the sick. How is this still the fundamental mission of the Church?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.

-Pope Benedict XVI

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

I have seen the title of Vicar General and Chancellor used in our Catholic newspaper. Who are they and what do they do?

Answer: A bishop is in charge of a diocese and appoints people to help with its administration. Two of those positions are the vicar general and the chancellor. Both play a role in the life of a diocese, despite the many jokes priests may tell at their expense! A chancellor is the archivist of a diocese, charged with task of keeping the records of the diocese. Often a bishop may add other responsibilities, and the chancellor may end up being like the executive director of the diocesan office. The chancellor does not need to be a priest.

The vicar general is a priest, appointed by the bishop and acts in the name of the bishop in administering the diocese. He has an advanced degree in canon law or theology. He also has executive authority within the diocese. This means that he is involved in the day-to-day pastoral and temporal administration of the diocese. Canon law does not allow a bishop to appoint a relative to the position, nor the priest in charge of the Sacrament of Penance. In both cases, the purpose of the law is to avoid conflicts of interest.