# This Sunday's <u>Counsel</u>

#### THEME:

We anchor our lives on God's boundless grace when we heed His call to become missionaries of the gospel.

#### **PROMISE:**

"The Lord himself will give his benefits...and prepare the way of his steps." (Ps 85: 13a, 14b)

#### WORD:

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

#### **ORDER:**

• Go...to My people. (Am 7: 15)

## **DIRECTIONS:**

- Take nothing for the journey and completely trust in God's will and provision.
- Be holy and without blemish before God.
- Faithfully serve in mission.
- Do corporal works of mercy.



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# **Trust That He Will Provide**

# **REFLECTION:**

In the gospel reading of the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus gave His disciples instructions on how they are to carry out their mission of preaching the Good News of God's reign - "... take nothing

for the journey but a

walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts," (Mk 6: 7). They are to travel light, taking only what is essential and leaving behind whatever might weigh them down so that they will be able to focus on the mission. Poverty in spirit will free them from seeking comfort and preoccupation with possessions and will make room for God's provision. Jesus wants His disciples to be dependent on God and not on themselves.

Jesus is telling us the same thing through our community theme for this week – We anchor our lives on God's boundless grace when we heed His call to become missionaries of the gospel. Our good Lord plants us in our community to help advance the Kingdom of God. He is sending us with a mission to bring healing and restoration,



pardon and freedom from the oppression of sin, despair, hopelessness and eventual destruction of self. We are to do this without guile, instead with charity, selflessness, peace and simplicity. As He told the early disciples, we must give our

full attention to the proclamation of God's Kingdom and not be diverted to other lesser things. We must do our work, not for what we can get out of it but for what we can give freely to others.

Jesus' love for us is so incomprehensible that it is His will for us to have a share in the salvation of souls. He wants us to serve with Him. God works in and through each of us for His glory. He expects us to do greater things by leading us to be dependent on Him, more than what we can achieve by relying on ourselves. When we respond to God's word with faith and obedience, we accomplish far beyond what we can do on our own. We are changed and made "a new creation" in Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5: 17).

Yes, we will experience disappointment,

He Will Provide - See Page 2



# The Mandate Of Christ's Disciples

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative of sending the Twelve Apostles out on mission (cf. Mk 6: 7-13). In fact the term "apostles" means, precisely, "messengers" or "envoys". Their vocation was to be fully achieved only after Christ's Resurrection with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Yet it is very significant that Jesus wants to involve the Twelve in his action from the outset: it is a sort of "apprenticeship" with a view to the great responsibility that awaited them. The fact that Jesus calls certain disciples to collaborate directly in his mission demonstrates one aspect of his love, namely, he does not spurn the help that other people can contribute to his work; he knows their limitations, their weaknesses, but bears no contempt for them. On the contrary, Jesus confers on them the dignity of being his envoys. He sends them out two by two and gives them instructions which the Evangelist sums up in a few sentences. The first concerns the spirit of detachment: the Apostles must not be attached to money or to other comforts. Then Jesus warns the disciples that they will not always receive a favorable welcome. Sometimes they will be rejected; they might even be persecuted. However, this must not frighten them: they must speak in Jesus' name and preach the Kingdom of God without being

Mandate - See Page 2



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Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)? For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407 For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962		Tess Corso Kristen Imbro Jerry Ramos	7/15 Jay Talag 7/15 Michelle Tecarro 7/16 Vinnie Warnock Anniversary	7/18 7/18 7/18 7/18
Let us see your kin and grant us yo	dness, O Lord, ur salvation.	🕴 Rey & Bak	Nora Dingerdissen 7/12 ay Inid 7/14 cace Gallofin 7/17 ass Corso 7/18	



# Living Stones

The authenticity of the Church's mission does not come through success nor through the gratification of the results, but by going forth with the courage of trust and the humility of abandonment to God. Going forth professing Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the awareness of being small and weak instruments which, in God's hands and with his grace, can accomplish great deeds.

The Lord offers us many opportunities to be saved and to enter through the door of salvation. This door is an occasion that can never be wasted: we don't have to give long, erudite speeches about salvation, like the man who approached Jesus in the Gospel. Rather, we have to accept the opportunity for salvation. Because at a certain moment, the master of the house will rise and shut the door, as the Gospel reminded us.

Jesus invites us to lose our life for Him and for the Gospel, to receive it renewed, fulfilled and authentic. We are certain, thanks to Jesus, that this path leads us to the resurrection, to the full and definitive life with God.

If the Lord finds in our heart, I don't say a perfect, but sincere, genuine faith, then He also sees in us living stones with which to build his community. This community's foundation stone is Christ, the unique cornerstone.

## ~ Pope Francis

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difficulties and failures in going about our mission. But suffering is a "training tool" that God uses to purify our hearts and grow our faith. It is a humbling process that allows us to become more and more dependent on God and be reminded that His grace is sufficient and His love for us strong. There is nothing greater that we can do with our life than to faithfully serve our Master. We should see His provision and care even when it is not what we expect because God's ways are not our ways.

Jesus brings this promise to those who are willing to partner with Him in His mission, *"The Lord himself will give his benefits...and prepare the way of his steps,"* (Ps 85: 13a, 14b). Sometimes we may feel that God's provision is not available right away or we may even doubt that it will come at all. But we must have that unshakeable faith in believing that God will always provide for our needs. And as we move from this life to the next, all of God's gifts, graces and blessings will be topped by the promised reward in heaven where we will share in God's love for all eternity.

## $\underline{P} \underline{r} \underline{a} \underline{y} \underline{e} \underline{r}$ :

Lord Jesus, I humbly empty myself to You so that You can fill me with Your graces that I need to accomplish the mission that You will for my life. Take and receive my soul, my mind, my will and my heart. Fill my heart with love and compassion for those who do not know You or follow You. May I be a good witness to Your truth and salvation. Amen.

S

Adapted from <u>www.bldworld.org</u>

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## Mandate - Cont'd from Page 1

worried about whether or not they will succeed. Succeed — its success must be left to God.

The other very important instruction in the Gospel passage is that the Twelve must not be content with preaching conversion. They must accompany their preaching, in accordance with Jesus' instructions and example, with care for the sick, with caring for those who are sick in body and in spirit...This twofold corporal and spiritual healing is always the mandate of Christ's disciples. Hence the apostolic mission must always include the two aspects of preaching God's word and of showing his goodness in gestures of charity, service and dedication.

> ~ Pope Benedict XVI Homily, July 15, 2012