

15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME “B”.

To be a missionary one need be willing to travel light.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus sent the disciples to a mission in his behalf to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of heaven. Just as in the former times, God spoke through the prophets, now he speaks through the Apostles of His son and their successors. As associates of Jesus in the mission, they have authority to declare what is right to believe and what is wrong to avoid in order to enter and to stay clean in the kingdom of God.

The Apostles were simple people, fishermen and farmers who were not trained and were not wealthy to have what they needed to travel and help themselves in the mission. Nevertheless Jesus sent them with a warning not to be destructed by what they think they would need for their food or clothes for changing. He wanted them to put their trust in God who cares and provides for things necessary to live on. They have to be free from unnecessary material goods so that they could concentrate on their work. This does not mean their work would be easy and acceptable by their clients. Their mission may encounter rejection.

Success in their mission is not dependant on what they had or how much they know but on faith and trust in God.

The challenge given to the apostles is also applicable to us today. The growth of the church and its work of evangelization depend on each individual member. We are called to serve our world with the word of God and inspire it by our own practice of the faith. We are also challenged to be free for God’s work without depending too much on what we earn.

In those days, people had their doors open for visitors. It is scary for new priests to think how they could survive to depend on the generosity of parishioners for a daily meal or their cloths. In some way yes! We are supported by our parish for living expenses. I am fortunate and grateful for your love and care. I always get a gift for my birthday, Christmas or Easter. I find family relationship in the parish. It is very encouraging and affirming in my priestly vocation.

According to St. Paul, Our Call is in three fold: First; to serve God by praising Him in Liturgies of the church; second is to be holy and stay blameless in God’s sight and be full of love. The third is to be ready to share the faith, love and the good news about salvation. That is the primary call of each baptized Christian.