

July 12, 2009—5pm, 7am, 8:30am, 10am  
Sunday 15OT—Year B  
Father David Lawrence

My dear friends in Christ, our scripture readings this Sunday highlight for us the mystery of God's call in our lives and how he equips us. Both Amos and the twelve apostles must have felt daunted at the task that God gave them. Amos said clearly, I am no prophet. I don't belong to the company of prophets, I was just a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. And yet here I am, God sent me to prophesy. Likewise as the apostles were sent out two by two, they were to confront evil spirits and preach repentance but they were to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick, sandals and the clothes they had on.

God's commissioning in this surprising way highlights two important things for us. First the simplicity of God's mission; it is not some complicated worldly program, it does not require any special material resources. Second the power of God is all the more evident by his use of humble instruments.

So how does this apply to us? Well first of all God has called each of us to be a saint. We are called to be his holy children. He summons us. It is something very simple and yet very challenging. We are to overcome our sinful tendencies and be filled with love. We don't need any special technology or material things to accomplish this. We just need the sacraments, the Word of God, daily prayer and the support of fellow Christians, the means that God provides abundantly.

Then God sends us out, again very simply, to show his love to others and extend his reign. We are to live out our baptismal mission of being a priest, prophet and king or queen wherever we are and wherever we go. Sometimes we may not feel equipped, but we must not let that stop us. And in fact we ought to try to drive out that feeling because God has equipped us in powerful ways to be agents of transformation in this world. St. Paul said in our second reading that God has lavished the riches of his grace on us and has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. Let's not insult God's generosity by our unwillingness to accept his call. You who have been baptized, communed and confirmed are well equipped for God's mission for your life.