



CELEBRATING AT HOME  
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Living sacraments of God's love (Mk 6:7-13)*



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### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church  
in this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,  
**you call us to be your own.**

Lord Jesus,  
**you feed us with the word of life.**

Lord Jesus,  
**you send us to be God's presence in the world.**

### Scripture Reading *(Mark 6:7-13)*

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unseen spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff -no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

### Reflection - *Living sacraments of God's love*

The first reading today tells the story of Amos, an ordinary man who was called by God to be a prophet. Amos, who had been happily looking after his sheep and his sycamore trees when God called him, was sent to preach to people who had become so lost in their wealth, power and self-importance that they could no longer read the face of God in the poor, weak and sick, and despised them.

Like Amos, the disciples in the Gospel are ordinary men. None, not even Jesus himself, is a formally commissioned or ordained rabbi, yet they are called and commissioned to preach and to heal.

The Gospel needs to be presented simply and truthfully and without affectation. The preaching disciples must make themselves like the brothers and sisters to whom they dare preach. Perhaps a reminder that he/she is not above those to/for whom he/she preaches.

Too much wealth and too many possessions can easily get in the way of proclaiming the Gospel, as can an exalted sense of self-importance. Pope Francis is constantly warning priests and seminarians against clericalism (thinking they are above everyone else) and careerism (thinking more about self-advancement in the Church than about mission).

Not everyone will be able to hear or accept the message of the disciples, just as the townsfolk of Nazareth couldn't perceive the presence of God in Jesus. But there is no firestorm of punishment. Jesus, though hurt, amazed and dumbstruck, does not retaliate with violent retribution. Instead, he intensifies and multiplies his mission by sending out the disciples to other places. Where once there was only Jesus now there are 12 others spreading the Good News and healing. Disciples are called to proclaim God's love, not God's wrath.

It is ordinary people like you and me, not only those formally commissioned by the Church, who are called to read the face of God in ourselves, in others and in the world around us. We try not to get lost in our own power and wealth and self-importance which can easily blind us to the presence of God. We try to be people who become sacraments of God's presence for one another, who allow God to anoint God's people with acts of love, compassion, hope and healing.

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the whole Church,  
**together may we be a living witness to the Gospel  
of hope and peace.**

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We pray for all those called to proclaim the mystery of God's purpose:

**May they reveal your loving and life-giving plan for the human family.**

We pray for ourselves, called to proclaim the word of God:

**may we always speak with wisdom and love.**

### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

### Closing Prayer

Eternal God whose love never fails,  
hear our prayers and grant what we ask  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,  
**as we place our hope in you.**



# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



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