

We Are His Witnesses!

The Eucharist we celebrate and share in opens for us means to experience the richness of God's blessings through the prayers, songs, readings, homilies, liturgical gestures etc. These experiences which we get through active participation are not meant to be left behind the four walls of the sacred space (Church) but to be seen in our day-to-day life. Hence, at the end of each Mass we are sent out "**go**" to begin to live out these experiences with one another. The circumstances for this mission vary but the important thing is that we are conscious of being sent to be witnesses to the Gospel (Acts 1: 8).

The readings of today invite us to reflect on different people that were called and sent to become witnesses at different times. The prophet Amos in the first reading was called from being a dresser of sycamore tree to a prophet. He is known as a prophet of social justice because he preached against the social ills in Israel with regard to the maltreatment of the poor by the rich. Amos was misunderstood by the priest of Bethel-Amaziah who thought he was preaching for material motives and asked him to leave Bethel. Amos didn't give up because of the opposition but explained his mission. Jesus in the gospel called and sent his disciples to go, preach, and heal in his name. He brought to their awareness that they may encounter rejection but asked them not to give up their mission. The disciples in obedience to Christ's instructions went, preached and healed in his name.

God in his infinite love has chosen us and continues to bestow on us the spiritual blessings through Christ as St. Paul describes in the second reading. These spiritual blessings we receive through the sacraments especially the Eucharist are meant to be bear fruits that make us true witnesses as Amos and the disciples were. In the Eucharist God showers us with the blessings of his love, forgiveness and peace. He calls and sends us to become agents of these blessings through our perseverance. We are his witnesses! We pray that God will help us to respond heartily to these blessings and share them with one another. Amen.

"I chose you and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last...." (John 15: 16).