

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, if listening to God's Word to us can make us uncomfortable; proclaiming God's word is even more difficult and uncomfortable, sometimes, is it even dangerous and painful! Nonetheless, every single one of us must take this call from God with uttermost seriousness, for by our immersion into Christ's life in our Baptism, we are called to share in His mission to cast out the realm of Satan, and to proclaim and make more visible the reign of God! So ask yourselves: How comfortable was this mission for Jesus?

The mission of Jesus is absolutely essential for the life of the world. Without it, this world is filled with darkness and evil and death! Therefore, our mission in the world is essential: how can we leave those whom we love in the grip of death and the evil one? Therefore, the missionary commission of the apostles applies to every single one of us! This missionary commission involves two critical aspects: trust in God's Divine Providence, that He will give us everything that we need for this missionary commission; and, secondly, the Grace of perseverance without regards to our success! Jesus teaches us that every need that we have in this commission will be provided by God, even the words that we use! That has always been my experience- but- it does not mean that you and I will succeed! Success belongs to God and to the persons who encounter the Lord through us!

Is the missionary commission entrusted to us uncomfortable: Indubitably! What about our fears of swimming against the tide and the current of popular culture? Will it be hard? Absolutely! We will experience rejection and mocking of our values. Like Amos, we will be rejected by the world; but we have the firm assurance that we are bound with Christ and to Him and His Kingdom. God wants to use us as His megaphones to call His beloved sons and daughters out of darkness and death; if we reject His call, we become a part of the problem and not part of His solution! He will inevitably win, but He wants us to be a part of His Divine Victory! So: will you say yes to His call?