

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 12, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: AMOS 7:12-15

'Off with you, visionary. never prophesy again in Bethel'

PSALM 85

Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

2ND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3-10

God chose us before the world began, to be holy and blameless in his sight, to be full of love.

GOSPEL: MARK 6: 7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing on the journey.

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Summer is the season when many of us spend hours and hours on the road. At the end of a long day's journey, a tired driver stopped for dinner. When the waitress came to take his order, he told her he would like just two things: "the pot roast special and a kind word for a weary traveler." The waitress wrote down the young man's order and started for the kitchen. The young man called after her: "what about the kind word?" The waitress said, "well, sir, about the kindest word I can give you is: "don't eat the pot roast!"

All people in every age and culture long for kind words. We don't need pithy remarks, though, we need words of significance, words that give our lives meaning and purpose and direction. Jesus sent the Twelve out to share the Good News! He didn't send them out to tell everyone that he was the Messiah; it was too soon for that. He sent them out to proclaim that God has a dream for his creation and with us the dream comes true. The Kingdom of God is here.

Ask yourself these questions: Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? Before you were born, everything you see around you was already here. Think of it! The same sun, the same moon, the same stars were already here. The same mountains, the same oceans, animals, plants and people were

all living under the watchful eye of God. And what about you? You were not here. People were shopping, laughing, fighting, loving, taking vacations, complaining about bosses, having a good time, having bad times—without you. Nobody thought of you. Nobody imagined you even in their dreams because you did not exist. Except God. The timeless God thought of you. With the warmth of Divine love, God drew you from nothingness. God took twenty-three chromosomes from a unique mom and twenty-three chromosomes from a unique dad and knit them together in your mother's womb. The unique you is as much a creation as the cosmos itself. God gave you life, a soul and the faculties of your mind and spirit. God opened your eyes to the radiance that surrounds you. You are a creature. This is the most honest thing we must admit about ourselves. To be frankly aware that you are a creature in no way diminishes you because you came to be out of the generosity of Divine Love. You are God's love child! It is common enough to brag about our hard work and developed talents. Who am I? I am God's love child. What am I doing here? I am here to make God's dream come true.

Where am I going?: Heaven. We simply must remember that we are pilgrims on this earth, a traveler to paradise. That is our goal. In all life's inevitable disappointments, personal tragedies and bitterness recall the blessed hope of heaven. This is what the saints did. Read their lives; Mother Catherine Drexel, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, Padre Pio, and all the others. The rhythm of their hearts exclaimed, "Paradise, Paradise!" Imagine our lives, our homes, our world if we made ourselves consciously aware of our origin and destiny and its meaning for our earthly journey. If it is God who made me and gave me my talents and keeps me in existence, why do I think I am so necessary to the world? My whole being resulted from God's love. Should we not admit this and praise and thank God for so wonderful a gift? Repent, Jesus said, which means change your lives, become a servant of Love. Send acts of love back to God. Make many actions of love for God every day. These acts set your soul on fire and make it gentle.

This is the Good News the Twelve brought to the world, this is the kind word we long to hear. You are God's love child; the infinite Creator and giver of life knows and loves you even as though you are His only son or His only daughter. God has a dream and we are His dream come true. God will never not love you no matter what; now carry that good news forward and really live your journey to heaven.