



JULY 12, 2015

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



AMOS 7:12-15

PSALM 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

EPHESIANS 1:3-14 OR 1:3-10

MARK 6:7-13

REFLECTION

I can't help anyone else. I'm not talented enough or smart enough or brave enough or fill-in-the-blank enough. The idea that God has a mission for each of us can be pretty terrifying. The first followers must have felt at least a little intimidated when Jesus sent them out with nothing but the clothes on their backs, completely dependent on the kindness of strangers. Amos, in the First Reading, explains that he was not a prophet but a shepherd and a gardener. God has a habit of calling the seemingly ill-equipped and unprepared into his service. The next time you are presented with a chance to help or lead, go beyond your usual boundaries and remember the Apostles — bring a friend and trust in God.



"OVERCOMER"

MANDISA

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=b8VoUYtx0kw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8VoUYtx0kw)

ACTION

Spread the Gospel this week. Ask if you can read a Bible story to some younger kids in religious education or see if you can sign up to help with the children's Liturgy of the Word in your parish.

Consider Marianne Williamson's powerful and often-quoted passage on fear: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God." (source: www.marianne.com).



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- What most frightens you about putting your gifts to use in the world?
- What gives you hope or makes you feel confident about the future?