

Homily of 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B (July 15, 2018)

Our readings today remind us of our calling as Christians to be prophets whose words and actions cast out unclean spirits, and to heal the sick. We are not called to go in search of unclean spirits walking about in our streets and then cast them out. The unclean spirits to be cast out are the evil that cause enmity, poverty and suffering to humanity.

Prophet Amos, in the first reading, prophesied against the evil that pervaded the land during his time: the oppression of the weak and the poor by the rich and the mighty, and injustice and corruption. In the Gospel Jesus sent out his disciples and preached repentance, drove out demons and cured the sick.

Who is a prophet?

- A prophet calls a spade, a spade.
- A prophet is nonpartisan and unbiased.
- A prophet does not keep silent when silence is not golden.
- A prophet does not support evil.
- A prophet has vision and mission.
- A prophet does not get trapped or drowned by worldly cares: food, sack and money.
- A prophet is not deterred by criticism or opposition.

We can use the above description to assess ourselves. How prophetic am I? How prophetic is my family? How prophetic is the parish community? How prophetic is the group where I belong? How prophetic is the country's leadership? We are all invited to be prophets wherever and whatever position we find ourselves.

There existed many prophets in our history whose words and actions brought progressive changes in our communities, parishes, in the Church and in the country. We pray for more of such prophets to arise in our time. We pray that the Church may continue to be outspoken concerning injustice in our country and in the world. We pray that those in political and economic leadership may listen to prophetic voices of the Church and the prophetic voices of men and women of good will. We pray that the powerful does not silence the prophets and their voices.

God does not leave us without prophets. Let us not silence the prophets in our midst. Let us listen to them. "Without a vision the people lose restraint; but happy is the one who follows instruction" (Proverbs 29:18).

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