

FR. PETER'S HOMILY  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

In today's Gospel Jesus sends the Twelve out two-by-two, entrusting with them his mission to bring release to those held captive by demons and healing to the sick. They are to "travel light," relying on the providence of God and the generosity of those to whom they preach.

Although priests today might own many things ... personally, I own way too much stuff ... we still rely on the generosity of you, our parishioners, whose financial contributions to the parish provide for our salary and housing.

An even more important aspect of the mutual dependency between a pastor and his flock is our collaboration in ministry.

Just as a parish needs the leadership of its pastor, so also a pastor needs the participation of his parishioners.

Having begun our 3rd year together, I am grateful for those who are involved in the life of our parish, and I pray that more and more members will take an active role in our various ministries.

We are always in need of more altar servers, extraordinary ministers of communion, lectors, ushers, and music ministry members.

In today's second reading, St. Paul gives us a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving for the blessings God has poured out upon us through Christ.

He reminds us that each of us has been chosen in Christ, and that we were created for the praise of God's glory.

This is the reason our parish exists.

This is the reason we gather each week for the Holy Eucharist: To be nourished, inspired, and empowered to live for the praise and glory of God!

Jesus sent the disciples out two by two.

None of us were meant to be "lone rangers" on our journey of faith. We are all in this together.

Yes, Christ chooses us personally, individually, to follow him, but he also calls us to follow him as a member of his Body, the Church.

Our vocation is to support and build up one another in love.

And we are challenged to share generously the gifts we have received through God's mercy.

As we continue this Holy Mass, let us give thanks to God for the blessings we have received, and ask for the graces we need to continue to serve God and our neighbor.