

## Reflection

### Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

### July 14, 2024

Mark 6.7 reports that “Jesus summoned the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

This week, we are obligated to acknowledge that our mission for Christ is to serve others.

You have been sent to bless people as a representative of God. But God wants you to do the ministry alongside others, so you won't be sent alone. For this reason, Jesus sends the twelve into pairs. But what made Jesus send them in pairs? Without a doubt, one gives the other power. According to Ecclesiastes 4:10, God states, "but woe to him who is alone when he falls and doesn't have another to lift him up." In addition, partners not only shield one another from harm but also offer enjoyable company and support during trying times. A partner also encourages accountability. When one is with someone, they are less prone to give in to temptation. This demonstrates how important our fellowship is to strengthen the sense of unity in purpose.

The disciples required one another's support to combat the evil that is ingrained in the world. Additionally, the way they collaborated was a model of the Kingdom's goals, which included building community, assisting individuals in overcoming feelings of exclusion and alienation, and facilitating active collaboration and vision sharing. Instead of teaching the Kingdom, their job was to live it out. They were also to drive the evil spirits out; the spirits that persuade individuals to commit terrible crimes. Therefore, while they drove out demons, they had to act with compassion and care. So, as ministers ourselves, we must have empathy for people who commit horrific acts. Serving like Jesus means serving everyone; thus, we must minister to those that others would prefer to avoid. Furthermore, when we walk forth, Spirit-led, in His all-achieving power, let's love as Jesus loved and bless like Jesus blessed. This is because it is Jesus' goal to convey his aroma of love, peace, compassion, and generosity to every encounter.