

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel Jesus tells the twelve apostles that they should embody three signs: simplicity of lifestyle, dependence on others and hospitality. These instructions are such a contrast to what most of us value today, where it is often the rich and powerful, the independent and the inhospitable who are thought to be the best leaders.

For Jesus, however, the one truly sent in his name is the one who knows that another's worth comes from who they are, not what they have. It doesn't matter whether we're rich or poor. It's the way we use our money for others which reveals whether our wealth possesses us or not.

For Jesus, being "a rock and an island" was not a sign of strength but one of fear and despair. A strong Christian is the one who rejoices in our dependence on each other, and is always grateful for the interconnectedness of life.

For Jesus, making room for others, especially toward those in legitimate need and even when it makes a large claim on us, is a pre-eminent sign of his Kingdom.

The Christian life is about reading the signs of the times. May our Eucharistic signs of his presence amongst us, the bread and wine, change us today, to match it with the best in being simple in lifestyle, happily dependent and extravagantly hospitable with our time, talent and energy for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

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