

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Tuesday, 7 October 2019

Lk 10:25-32

To Become a Neighbor Is to Show Mercy

The gospel passage specially invites us to practice the virtue of Love with a total focus. If we love the Lord exclusively, only then we will be able to love our brethren and if we love our brethren generously, we can love our God meaningfully. Both are reciprocal. We are invited to become the extension of God's love and mercy to our brothers and sisters who are in need. We see Jesus becoming more explanatory through the parable of the Good Samaritan to the response to the teacher of the law, 'who is my neighbor'. In the parable the victim is presumably a Jew but still a priest and a Levite avoid contact with him, perhaps on grounds of ritual defilement. A Samaritan however goes to the victim's aid irrespective of legal prescriptions.

Love and mercy go hand in hand. Love or mercy does not consist simply in being moved by another person's distress. The parable of Jesus gives us clear indication to this. Instead of just being charitable he took unconditional and uncalculated risks. Though the wounded person was a Jew, the Samaritan did not think of the legal problems of touching or close association with a Jew. Secondly, the place from Jerusalem to Jericho was very dangerous place to travel. Even the robbers would pretend as a wounded man to attract the passengers. Still the Samaritan chose to help the wounded man taking uncalculated risks. We are called to take unconditional and uncalculated risks for our neighbor who is in need.

Here is when Prophet Jonah failed to respond to God's call to preach the good news to the people of Nineveh. For God everyone is his children and he is ready to go any extend to save his children. That is why in spite of the wickedness of the people of Nineveh God sends prophet Jonah to invite them for repentance. But Jonah didn't want to take unconditional risk for his brothers and sisters in Nineveh. Still God execute his plans in the life of Jonah for his people in Nineveh.

As the month of October is dedicated as the month of rosary devotion to our Bl. Mother, and today especially we have the memorial of our Lady of Rosary, we have in our Bl. Mother the best example of practicing this virtue of loving her neighbor who is in need. In the occasion of staying with her cousin Elizabeth and extending her helping hand to Elizabeth mother is proving to be a good Samaritan. And becoming a helping hand on the occasion of wedding feast at Cana she shows her Mercy in action.

In our missionary life we should be able to come out of our comfort zones and take unconditional and uncalculated risks for our brothers who are in need. In Ghana at night certain places are so dangerous that the armed robbers simply lute the people. Many dodge that area at night. Many of the occasions our fathers had to take this extra risk as they are called for the administering sacraments of anointing of the sick and distribution of communion to the sick in emergency.

During this Divine Liturgy let us pray that we may be strengthened by the Eucharistic Lord to come out of our comfort zones and become an extension of the merciful love of our Heavenly Father to our brothers and sisters. Amen

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