

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Friday, 4 October 2019

Readings: Baruk 01: 15-22; Luke 10:13-16

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Many Philippine churches today welcome pets and animals for special blessing on them. It is interesting to see the blessing ceremony of these pets during or after the masses. Several catholic 'masters' of the pets happened to be in the church today just for the sake of their dearly pets and domestics! The compassion and love for God's creation reflected in the charismatic personality of saint Francis of Assisi is re-lived by inviting all creations to the 'temple' of the Lord!

Gospel presents Jesus praising the people of Tyre and Sidon just because of their readiness to repent. Jesus acknowledges their good deeds. Their willingness to reconcile is appreciated; their humility to recognize the faults is highlighted. The good news of repentance changed their destiny. Jesus includes everyone for the fulfilment of his mission on earth. Saint Francis of Assisi followed it; Pope Francis is updating them by living and preaching.

The committed services of many lay-people keep the Philippine Church active and vibrant. More lay-people are involved in the various activities of hospitals, schools and church organizations. Many serve in the parishes without any remuneration and, sometimes even without any recognition! Due to other engagements and commitments generally parish priest is seen in the parish only for the administration of sacraments and for the decision making council meetings. Religious sisters are rarely seen in the Metro Manila parishes. It is felt that the inclusive attitude of Jesus in the gospel is also a recognition and appraisal for all the committed services of the committed men and women in the church.

The participatory missionary endeavors of the church will be welcomed and accepted, and the inclusive attitude of the church will be appreciated and effective. Jesus, the "missionary from heaven" may bless all missionaries and our missionary endeavors!

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