

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Saturday, 12 October 2019

Lk 11:27-28

Fr. Jomi Pathikulangara CMI, Ghana

"True blessedness is not the recognition of the world but the recognition from God."

The gospel of the day though very short, points to us of several factors. As he was speaking a woman from the crowd shouted out, "Blessed are the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you." The reason behind the exclamatory statement of that woman was the way Jesus presented himself and the way he taught. That is why we read, "As he was speaking" The woman, representing the whole crowd was totally impressed by the way Jesus spoke. And then she was reminded of the source of the person of Jesus. That is why she was all praise for his mother, who literally is blessed by her adherence to the word of God. This should challenge all of us. Do our attitude, presence, words, looks, and even the behavior generate inspiration in the people who we meet. Do these aspects point to our source, our Creator? Or are we able to witness Jesus Christ through our presence, words and deeds?

In Ghana we have a regent called Br. Lijo Manjoor. He helps in the account office also helps in teaching certain subjects. During the second week of this academic year the new little children who took the admission this year, addressed Br. Lijo as 'Jesus Father'. In fact, he looks a little similar as he grows beard and has a lean structure. So, they thought it was Jesus himself. Though we all laughed at it as we heard it, when I reflected later, I didn't feel so much funny. He moves around in the school as an encouraging presence with his smile and greetings. All the teachers love him and accept his virtues of humility and down to earth behavior. Even a few teachers shared with me about his humility and warmth of care and concern. I am sure he could represent the merciful and generous attitude of Christ in reality.

Secondly Jesus corrects the woman saying, "Rather blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." Jesus means to say the true blessedness is not the recognition of the world but recognition from God. We should not limit ourselves to look for the satisfaction we receive from the world. But the inner joy that we receive by being faithful to the precepts of the word of God. In this missionary month we should create an attitude of missionary disciple, who listens the word of God, meditates over it, before the action.

The words of Jesus are not rude enough to overlook the importance of his mother in his life. But Jesus was literally praising his mother for her sublime adherence to the word of God in all the situations of her life. There is no one in this world who lived as submissive to the word of God and the true blessedness belongs to her. As we are in the month of the rosary devotion to our Bl. Mother, let us be inspired by her total surrender to the word of God and become a true witness of Jesus Christ through our words deeds and presence. Amen.

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