

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**Tuesday, 15 October 2019**

Lk 11:37-41

Baptized and Sent

Fr. Jacob Achandy CMI, Kenya

The extraordinary missionary month October 2019 reminds us to become aware of our identity in an extraordinary way. I had the opportunity during this month to give homilies to high school students in different places of our parish. I reminded them that it is through Baptism we are born in Christ as children of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. We are to become aware of this new identity as the children of God. Awareness precedes any change in any field of life. Baptism is our life choice to be children of God and become aware that we accepted the acceptance of God. God accepted us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him. It is through baptism that we accepted the acceptance of God to be holy and blameless in Christ. As we received Christ we are to be rooted in him through faith, built up in him through participation in the sacraments and to live in him following the law of love (Col 2:6-7). Baptism is not only an event; it is a life-long experience living with the grace we received in baptism. I used to tell the students to remember and celebrate their rebirth day of baptism as they celebrate their birthday. Anyone baptized in Christ is a member of the church and a missionary by nature as the church is.

Missionary is the one sent. Jesus is the missionary, the first missionary sent by God to fulfil his plan of salvation of the humanity from sin and death. That is what Jesus did through his death and resurrection. Through baptism we participate in the death and resurrection of our Lord and become new creation leaving the old self and putting on the new self in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). In this extraordinary missionary month we are to become aware of our being sent by Christ as he was sent by God (Jn 20:21). We are to be missions and missionaries. As missions, we are to attract people to Christ and as missionaries to preach the Christ to the people. It is through our living witness to Christ that we experience our being called baptized and sent.

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