

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Sunday, 20 October 2019

Jn 21:15-19

Passion for Christ and passion for people in Christ

Fr. Jacob Achandy CMI, Kenya

It is the mission that defines our identity and determines our destiny. Our identity as the disciples of Jesus is to be realized through our passion for Christ and our destiny as the apostles of Christ is to be realized through our passion for people in Christ.

Love is the foundation of our discipleship and apostleship as revealed in the Gospel. Peter is making the post baptismal three religious vows to be with Christ as the minister in the church and to be sent as the missionary in the world answering the third time question of whether peter loves him. 1st question is related to the vow of celibacy. Jesus asked him whether he loves him more than he loves the other people. Peter said: I do. 2nd question was related to the vow of poverty. Jesus asked him whether he loves him more than anything in the world. Peter said: I do. 3rd question was related to the vow of obedience. Jesus asked him whether he loves him more than he loves himself. Peter said: I do. Jesus was pleased with the passionate love of Peter for him and he was commissioned to be his celibate, poor, and obedient apostle for his people. Vows are instrumental values to realize the absolute and terminal value - Christ - in us and in our world.

Vow of celibacy is personal integration offering our being to the Being of Christ and our person becomes well integrated with the person of Christ. Jesus becomes the best partner of our life. Celibacy becomes existential, more than mandatory and marriage becomes unimaginable. Poverty is cosmic integration offering our having the body with our larger body the world to Christ and our microcosm becomes well integrated within Jesus and we become his missionaries available to all the people as the property of the Lord. Through the two vows we become free from ourselves and from our world and we proclaim Jesus as the Lord of our lives and the Lord of our world. Obedience is Christ realization in us and in our world doing the will of God as Jesus did. The vows deepen our identity as the disciples of Christ and widen our destiny as the apostles of Christ.

Published by

CMI General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry