

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

## **Sunday, 20 October 2019**

Lk 10:1-5, 1 Cor 9:13-18

Fr. Thomas Thadathil CMI

It doubles our joy and the inspiration for deeper reflection as we celebrate the mission Sunday during the extra-ordinary year of mission declared by Pope Francis. Mission is not a job or a work that we take up, instead it's our life. Pope Francis says that "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing" (Evangeli Gaudium).

Following the command of Jesus for mission as mentioned in Mk 16:14-16, we have to make our lives a mission today. Thinking of mission today, the context we are put in also needs our attention. We live in a fast moving world, where religious sentiments and values have a diminishing value in the appearance, yet there are people thirsting for real God experiences. Christ is to be preached in the most remote villages just as in the urban areas. Understanding very well the above mentioned context, we must reflect how we can preach Jesus more effectively to the people around.

To achieve this task, primarily we must clarify our approach for the mission. Late Bp. Januarius in the light of the mission in Chanda, said: "we did not compete, we did not imitate, but Chanda was a challenge of the time." His words are really thought provoking as we reflect on mission today. Missionary work is not a competitive work. It is an act for the kingdom of God. But today professionalism has entered into the church very deeply which prompts us to look for perfections in our institutions and activities, in order to compete with other institutions in the world. The missionary work of church is based on the kingdom values. Too much professionalism and competition surely will compel us to subdue the kingdom values which we are to preach. So let us remember that missionary work does not demand from us a kind of professionalism, rather it requires faithfulness and commitment. We could adopt the methodologies that are available to us. Let the focus be on kingdom values alone.

To achieve the missionary task, secondly, we must adopt a tool. And the most efficacious tool is the act of forgiveness. Today all the Christian families, the consecrated men and women are greatly in need of this tool. Though we are called Christians, this tool is being forgotten by us. Many of the recent incidents in the church and developments in families point out that we have lost the value of forgiveness. The forgiving love of Jesus is the most important value Christianity ever preached and also the value the world admired in Christianity. Since we lived this forgiveness, people of other faith and culture loved our presence amidst them. We have a number of examples in the history of church. Forgiveness was a weapon that attracted many to Christianity. But unfortunately, this is becoming alien to our families and communities today. So in this complex world, let us preach Jesus through forgiveness. Let our families and religious communities be filled with forgiveness. So that seeing our forgiveness let

others know who Christ is. As Jesus himself said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Mt 5:16).

So dear brethren, on this mission Sunday let admit that we are here to preach Jesus. We don't need to be professional and competitive persons, but we need to be sincere and faithful. Let our approach for mission be clear. In order to fulfill our task of mission, let us hold on to the value of forgiveness. At the end, we will succeed in preaching Jesus to the people around.

*Published by*

CMI General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry