

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

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Lk 12:49-53

Fire of Christ: A True Source of Empowerment for a Disciple

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The gospel passage motivates us as what should be the attitude of a missionary disciple. As all of us carry the mandate of Christ to be the proclaiming missionaries Jesus' words are really inspiring. He says "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled." Jesus Christ comes with the fire of the heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. He wants the world to be on fire and do away with all the darkness, all kinds of sinful activities and unfaithfulness. When the world is all set to follow all kinds of sinfulness and impurities, Christ present himself as the champion and the Master of Divinity and perfection carrying the fire of the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul in the first reading reminds us the then status of the world, "There was a time when you let your members be slaves of impurity and ever increasing wickedness walking in the way of sin; convert them into servants of righteousness to the point of becoming holy." This holiness is the after effect of following Christ and be purified by the fire which Christ brings. The world of today is not much different from what St. Paul speaks in the first reading. So our attitude as missionaries and Messengers is to be purified ourselves by the fire that Jesus brings and carry the same fire to our place of work and worship and to whom all we come in contact with.

When we carry this fire of of Jesus to others, we may have to be truthful, honest and would be bold enough to correct others. Then we may have to face many hardships, encounter hatred and pain from others. We are not to be discouraged. Jesus our master himself had to face all these and he willingly and successfully underwent this phase of baptism.

Ghanian culture accommodates different denominations within one family. Though they are members of different denominations they live peacefully. If one of the members is Catholic and he has some big function in his church, the other members, who belong to other denominations also join the function. This is same with everyone in the family. The uniting point of the family is Christ himself.

But today Jesus comes with a contradictory statement as he says, "I have not come to establish peace on Earth, but rather division." But it refers only to the element of priority in following Christ. Jesus had warned that those who wanted to follow him had to be ready, if necessary, to leave home and family and enter into a new family of brothers and sisters. To follow the way of truth and love, of freedom and justice is always going to arouse the hostility of those who feel threatened by goodness. Thus Jesus can cause divisions.

But nothing on earth should let us move away from the love of Jesus. May our Master, Jesus make us more vibrant and zealous through his fire. Thus our missionary work may become fruitful always. Amen.

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