

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**Monday, 21 October 2019**

29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

Rom 4:20-25; Lk 12:13-21

Fr. Taiju Thaliath CMI

Today's first reading talks about faith. Our faith that nothing is impossible with God, shares us in the omnipotence of God. St. Augustine says: "If we can understand it, it is no more God." God surpasses all understanding. He is greater than what reason can grasp. Abraham believed in God without comprehending what God asked of him. He was obedient to God in whom he had faith. In the today's Gospel Jesus asks us to be his own missionary disciples by becoming like him. We need to obey the Master. "One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Lk 12:15). The richness is a divine gift not for the sake of the rich themselves but for all. Jesus said what he had done already. That is, He being rich in mercy and love he shared it with everyone. Although he was God he did not consider equality something to be grasped at but he emptied himself to make others rich. This is true for every Christian. Every Christian is supposed to be sharing everything one has been gifted with. People who feel deeply enriched within themselves are those who spend all they have and all that they are in the service of others. This makes them rich in the sight of God. Pope Francis says, "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (EG 8). For Pope Francis, every Christian "ought to grow in awareness that he himself is continually in need of being evangelized" (EG 164). If one does not share the gifts that one has, he is not a Christian. Christians are all missionary disciples (EG 119) of the Master Jesus who shared everything that he had; through baptism, "all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples" (EG 120) to take up the responsibility of becoming Christ like. All Christians are "agents of evangelization." It is Christian duty to be sent like the Master to share everything one has and one is. We the Christians need to be evangelized to be like Jesus in our everyday life. "The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.... Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always 'missionary disciples'" (EG 120). We are missionary disciples of the Master Jesus who emptied Himself not only for the sake of the other but also in order to make them rich. By making others rich we become rich toward God (Lk 12:21). In other words, one's life does consist in making others rich.

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