



Diocese of Keningau

P. O. BOX 256, 89008 KENINGAU, SABAH, MALAYSIA
PHONE: (60-87) 332 935
FAX: (60-87) 331 411

MESSAGE ON CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

It is not easy to become a disciple of Jesus. It has never been easy because Jesus Himself demands, "if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross everyday and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Nevertheless Jesus assures us that He will be with His followers till the end of the time (Mat. 28:20). The theme of our Catechetical Sunday this year 2014 which will falls on 21 September is "**be courageous, I have conquered the world**" (John 16:33).

It is a fact that in our journey of faith as disciples of Jesus we have to face many challenges that can create fear in us. In Malaysia we face many threats and pressures openly, quietly and slyly. What steps should we take in order to build and strengthen our Christian faith?

Firstly we need to be convinced of the need to build and strengthen our Christian faith through our close relationship with the person of Christ (Jn. 15:4-5, Col. 2:6-7). Secondly we need to be convinced that our Christian faith needs the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our helper. He teaches us and reminds us of the teaching of Christ (John. 14:26). Thirdly, we need to be convinced that our Christian faith needs the support and protection of our Christian communities (Acts.2:41-47). Our role and responsibility as parents and catechists in bringing Jesus better known, loved and served must be guided and built on the three faith formation foundation mentioned above.

Jesus has given us His assurance. Let us place our trust and faith in His living message. Whatever we hear, see and experience that may bring fear, let us remember His assurance, "**be courageous, I have conquered the world**".

We thank Fr. John Anandan for the reflection he has prepared for Catechetical Sunday 2014.

Thank you.

+Bishop Datuk Cornelius Piong
President,
Malaysian Catechetical Commission