

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY MESSAGE – 21ST SEPT. 2014

Theme: “BE COURAGEOUS! I HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD” (Jn. 16:33b).

The Risen Lord Jesus grant you Peace!

The recent events around us does not seem to give us a bright picture of the beauty of creation and humanity. Locally, the religious extremism trends, the unethical means of conversion, the ‘Islamization’, racial polarization, the issue of the usage of the term ‘ALLAH’ and the various forms of injustices can cause a tsunami of fear, doubts and uncertainties. Burdened by these negative feelings one can be driven to question: “Where is God in all these? Where is the Kingdom of God?” One can be disappointed, disillusioned and even despaired.

Jesus promised not a smooth sailing to his disciples but warned them of hardships, persecutions and even martyrdom. In the Gospel of John chapter 16, Jesus assured the Apostles of the assistance of an Advocate, the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of truth leading them to the complete Truth. He invited them to be courageous and not to cave-in to the fear of the power of darkness as he himself has conquered the forces of darkness. The Apostles are to be brave and stand firm in faith as the final victory of goodness over evil is guaranteed.

Today, in our times, the Risen and Glorified Lord assures us of His victory over evil forces. By his death and resurrection he has saved us from the grip of the evil one. We are called, chosen and sent forth empowered with the “Spirit of power, love and self-control” (2Tim.1:7). We are “to fan into a flame the gift of God” (2Tim.1:6) and with steadfast faith (1Jn.5:4-5) overcome hatred and enmity with love, forgiveness and genuine friendship. We are commissioned to give ourselves to promote justice, peace, inter-religious and cultural harmony and understanding. We are to bring about the one big family of the ONE AND ONLY GOD, creator of all.

The family, the domestic Church, must become the home and school of communion fostering children deeply rooted in Christ and the Gospel values of justice, peace and love. Amidst all the challenges facing the modern families, Jesus assures you, parents, of his continual presence and assistance in bringing forth courageous children daring to swim against the present valueless trends, witnessing to the truth and realizing the Kingdom of God here and now.

Wishing you all a blessed and a fruitful Catechetical Sunday. May the Risen Lord as he promised: “I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mt.28:20), grant you his grace of Faith, Hope and Charity.

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How to celebrate the Catechetical Sunday 2014.

Here are seven (7) suggestions that catechists could choose and adapt:-

1. Power point presentation on bible quotes shown before Mass or after Holy Communion.
2. Skits / presentations e.g. songs, dances or mimes with the help of parents.
3. Exhibition with elements of faith e.g. Saints / Martyrs and other creativity.
4. Bring children and parents together to attend Holy Hour.
5. Testimonies / sharings from 1 new catechist, 1 child and 1 parent.
6. Parish affair – have parents do the breakfast sale.
7. Celebration at district level.