

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY: MISSION SUNDAY

Is 53:10-11; Heb 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45



World Mission Sunday

There was a story about three sons who left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, “I built a big house for our mother.” The second said, “I sent her a Mercedes with a driver.” The third smiled and said, “I’ve got you both beat. Remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can’t see very well. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years

to teach him. He’s one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.

Soon thereafter, mom sent a letter to each son. “Milton,” she wrote one son, “the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house.”

“Gerald,” she wrote to another, “I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!”

“Dearest Donald,” she wrote to her third son, “you have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious.”

In today’s Gospel, two of the Apostles, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approach Jesus. “Master,” they ask, “we want you to do us a favor... Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left when you are in your glory (vv. 35, 37). In so doing, they irreverently reduce Jesus’ promise of the Coming Kingdom to the level of a political spoils system. In return for loyalty to their Leader, James and John demand the top spots in the Kingdom. No doubt the two are dismayed and disenchanted when Jesus tells them to forget it and tells them: “The cup that I

drink of you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptized you shall be baptized. But as for seats at my right hand or left, these are not mine to grant," (vv. 39, 40).

Some people, once they are in power or in authority, they change. That is why Jesus teaches us to remain humble and not to become like rulers and tyrants. True greatness is not about titles, how people call us by names and positions. It is about service, being available and being accessible. Just like Him, He came into this world not to be served but to serve and gave His life as a ransom for the many.

True greatness is about doing our mission faithfully. The third Sunday of October was declared by the Church as the World Mission Sunday. It was declared in order for us to remember always that each one of us has a mission to do. Also, we pray for our missionaries in other places who preach the Word of God to people who do not yet know about Christ and to re-evangelize those who are already baptized and yet they are not practicing the teaching of Christ. Our Lord's command is clear: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to every nation," (Mk 16:15).

Some people have the wrong notion that Christ's command is addressed only to priests and religious. This is not true. Lay people, by virtue of baptism, are missionaries. They are called to spread Christ's good news of salvation.

How can you be a missionary today? First, we can perform this missionary activity in our own little way, like through our prayers, sacrifices, financial contributions and even awakening those brothers and sisters of ours who are sleeping in their faith in God or do not practice it because they so very busy with external affairs and have no time for God and His Church.

And also, many of us cannot go to others places in order to become missionaries, we can still help in the missionary works of the Church by sharing our (7) S. first is S is Simplicity of Lifestyle. The second S is Sharing. The third is Service like joining in socio-religious, civic and political organizations that caters to the needs of the people. The fourth S is Solidarity with the poor which is genuine concern for the right of the poor and feeding with them. The fifth S is Stewardship or we are going to take good care the creation of God. The sixth S is Subversion but not in the like of New People's Army (NPA) but agents of change. The seventh S is Scripture plus Church's teachings. Without these two, all the other six become meaningless.

And let us remember that Jesus becomes our Master because He serves us all.