

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A woman goes to the pharmacist and hands him over her prescription. The pharmacist said, "I can't accept this, it is a forgery". "Why do you think it is a forgery?", asked the woman. "Because I can read it."

Dear friends,

Over one billion Catholics all over the world observe today as World Mission Sunday. This annual observance was instituted 95 years ago in 1926 by Pope Pius XI's Papal decree. Every year since then, the universal Church has dedicated the month of October to reflection on and prayer for the missions. On World Mission Sunday, Catholics gather to celebrate the Eucharist, and contribute to a collection for the work of evangelization around the world. This annual celebration gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of mission work for the life of the Church.

The church around the world is missionary in nature. According to Vatican Council II, the church is missionary in love as its mission. So let us pray and support the missionaries around the world. Our prayer and our contributions support all the missionary activities that the church does. As I look at myself, I am a Catholic because of missionaries from the west; starting from St. Thomas the Apostle to other missionaries who came in the Twentieth Century. In turn, today Indian priests and nuns go all over the world to preach Jesus to people. I am so grateful to all the people who supported me throughout my life to be a priest. I am happy to be here.

The Gospel today has some beautiful moments of reflection. I would like you to reflect with me the conversations that happened. In last week's Gospel, Jesus asks the same question to the disciples, "What do you want me to do for you?" James and John answered what they desired or wished. They were concerned with their personal ambitions. That's why Jesus had to explain to them the real nature of a missionary disciple.

Today, the blind Man Bartimaeus asked for the real need. He wanted to see. Here we need to notice what Bartimaeus actually says to Jesus in answer to Jesus' question to him. Bartimaeus does not say to Jesus, "I want my sight." He says, "I want to see." To want sight is to want a capacity which can be used for all kinds of purposes—raising sheep, making money. But to want to see is to want the connection with reality that the exercise of sight makes possible. Wanting to see is wanting to know the true nature of reality, hidden in one way from a person when he is blind.

Jesus gave him a small time to consider what he really needs for before Jesus answers his needs. He answered the real need of him truly. Jesus asks us the same question to us and gives us time to answer him the real need.

Let us make the connection happen between us and Jesus. Let us open our hearts and minds to listen to Jesus and answer him our real needs.