

## PASTORAL LETTER ON MISSION

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

### **Thy Kingdom Come!**

Jesus sent his disciples two by two (Lk 10:01) and Jesus went around in villages and towns healing the sick and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sicknesses (Mt 9: 35-38). “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor” (Lk 4:18-19). “No bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food” (Mt 10:10). These are few passages from the gospels that describe the methodology of Jesus’ mission. He had great vision of his mission and committed whole heartedly to it. Jesus was fully concerned of his mission on earth. He availed all his skills and talents and every opportunity to accomplish the mission entrusted to him by the heavenly Father.

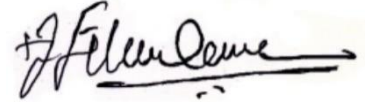
The great command of Jesus to his disciples was, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28: 19-20). Nothing less was welcome to Jesus in his disciples “if you wish to follow me: leave everything behind and follow me” (Mt 16:24). Radicality was the nature of his call. “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk 9:62). Without radical following of Christ it is impossible to please God. “The joy of following” consists in the radicality of its nature. It gives greater joy when the call to follow Jesus is accomplished in its radical nature.

Recently I happened to come across an anonymous quote that explains the difference between “interested” and “committed”. There is a difference between INTEREST and COMMITMENT. When you are interested in something you do because it is convenient. When you are committed to do something, you accept no excuses, only RESULTS. How do we evaluate our call to follow Christ. What may cause do we intent a result or what that pleases us. Jesus was not ready to compromise. He was committed to the call for which he offered himself. Nothing less he would compromise.

In this context we shall examine our commitment to the mission. Are we really fall in line with Jesus. How do we respond to our need of personal comforts and conveniences. Am I ready to manage with minimum, in other words what is genuinely and basically required for my regular and daily sustenance. How far my life is in tune with the standard of living of the people whom I serve. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Mt 5:3). We are called to be with the poor and to be poor as well. Identification with the poor is not only a concept for our reflection and meditation but also an ideal to practice in our mission, in our daily life.

As I say often that we are not called to be the social workers doing some spiritual ministries but spiritual ministers involve in some social apostolate. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world (Jn 17:18). Keeping our identity as spiritual ministers we are called to be different yet to be one with others and one like others. We shall offer generously to the service of the people to whom we are sent. May God bless everyone.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



† Ephrem Nariculam,  
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

