



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CHURCH, WADALA (E)
Community Link – Jun 2020

My dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you from all the priests on the Parish Team. We continue to accompany you with our prayers and we support you in whatever way is possible during these troubled times.

During this period when we were in lockdown, we have reflected on the plan for the Divine Renovation and Transformation of our parish. Over the last two months, we have returned to an evaluation of the SCCs done a couple of years ago and we have worked on the Vision Statement of our parish. The previous vision statement has achieved its purpose over the last years and we now need to look further and accept newer challenges. Hence the Vision Statement of our parish now states,

**We are a parish ROOTED IN CHRIST and LIVING OUR FAITH IN LOVING SERVICE;
BECOMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES WE MAKE JESUS KNOWN TO ALL.**

This is not just a novelty, but in the near future I will be explaining this vision to all of you so that we are all on the same page. Just now allow me to go back to the Great Commission given by Jesus at the moment of his Ascension. In Mark 28:19-20 the mission left to the apostles was to “Go, Make Disciples...” The proclamation of the Good News is the primary purpose and reason for the existence of the followers of Jesus, i.e. of the Church. The Good News is simply that Jesus is the Son of God, and he came to save all people from the consequences of their sins, which was attained through his death and resurrection. Jesus called ordinary people to fulfill the mission. He called a tax collector, a zealot and some fishermen, who would all become “Fishers of Men.” Jesus challenged them to “Put out into the deep.” (Luke 5:4.) **Unfortunately today, we, his followers in today’s world, are busy preparing and decorating pretty aquariums instead of being ‘Fishers of Men’ ‘in the deep.’**

In a document called *Lumen Gentium*, Pope Paul VI said, “Every baptized person has a **Call to Holiness and a Call to Mission.**” He meant to say that **ALL** of us are called to be saints. And yet the call to be a saint and the call to be missionary are not two different callings. **It is not either one or the other.** It is a **both/and** calling. We are called to holiness **AND** we are called to mission. We are called to be holy **AND** be missionary disciples who proclaim the good news of salvation.

On a different note, we bid goodbye to Fr Clarence and Fr William last week. They served our parish lovingly and with dedication during the past years and we wish them well in their future apostolate. Fr Clarence has been posted at our Novitiate in Nashik and Fr William has been transferred to Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Wadala West. We welcome our dear Fr. Aloysius Furtado back to our parish. He has put our parish on its feet in past years, and he joins us once again. We also have Fr Vishal Lopes who comes after working in our mission areas of Ahmednagar for the last three years. Fr Aloo brings with him all his wisdom and experience. Fr Vishal comes full of energy and enthusiasm. We wish both of them a fruitful apostolate in our parish.

As we look towards the lifting of the lockdown, and as we await an intelligent and well thought-out exit strategy, we are still in the midst of uncertainty. And even in this uncertainty we look to God in prayer to lead us out of this covid19 situation. Even as we emerge from this lockdown, a process that could take a long time, we emerge with a vision. We look to the future with hope. As we look forward to the end of the lockdown, we look ahead to the gradual opening of our parish Church for regular worship. However long that might take, let us continue to have hope and trust in the Lord. As we move forward with the Divine Renovation of our parish let us strive to live our vision statement, responding to the Call to Holiness **AND** the Call to Mission.

Yours affectionately in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Savio D’Souza. sdb.
Parish Priest.

GOSPEL SHARING IN THE SCC MEETINGS: June – 2020

STEP 1. Opening Hymn

Hear us, Lord, for we call on your name (2)
And we ask you to be with us, O Lord (2)
In our need (2) Blessed Lord (2)

We reach out, Lord, in search of your help (2)
And we do it because we need you, O Lord (2)
In our lives (2) Blessed Lord (2)



STEP 2. Read the Gospel Text Matthew 10:37-42.

Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: 'anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The word of the lord.

STEP 3. We pick out words and phrases which struck us and repeat them 3 times.

STEP 4. We remain silent for 2 minutes and allow God to speak to us.

STEP 5. We share on what struck us in the Gospel Passage.

Reflection

The Gospel of Jesus is not only about a way of life founded on love and mercy, but above all it is about the personage of Jesus himself. He demands a dedication stronger than our attachments to family. God is love and love is God. When we love God first, we are able to love our family and neighbours more and show mercy and compassion for the community at large. It is a love that is more selfless and life-giving. Yet Jesus assures us that even the smallest gesture of mercy and kindness to those in need will not go unnoticed. 'A cup of cold water' becomes an assurance of heaven. Being a disciple is not a marginal aspect of our lives, it is its central theme. It is the main act. Let us ask for the grace to be a real disciple of Jesus, capable of taking up our cross and following him.

Pause...Reflect...Say a Family / Community Prayer.

STEP 6. Concluding Hymn.

It takes courage to answer a call,
It takes courage to give your all,
It takes courage to risk your name,
It takes courage to be true.

It takes courage to say what you know will not pay.
To give each one his share
Though there'll be less to spare
To be seeking no more than the neighbor next door.
It takes courage to be true.



STEP 7. Discuss the task to be carried out for the month of June.