



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

My dear Parishioners,

“Peace Be With You.” This is my wish for each one of you and your families during this lockdown period that has been necessitated by the Covid-19 situation in our city and the entire world. This was also the same greeting and message of Jesus to his apostles as they were huddled together in that room, “for **fear** of the Jews.” The situation is different, but the **FEAR** is the same. Fear for whatever the cause, can take hold of us at anytime and for no apparent reason. The causes of fear are many. The result is the same. There is a hollow feeling in the stomach, fear freezes us, fear limits us, fear locks us within ourselves, fear blocks our vision, fear blinds us to reality, fear creates anxiety and fear paralyzes our thought process... And perhaps the last point is also that of most serious consequence is that fear prevents us from thinking, and this locks us within our fears. This could be true of the Covid-19 situation, or it could also be true of any area of our life. It could be about our job, about finance, about our future, our children’s future, relationships, family issues and even our relationship with God. **We might even be relating with God out of fear, and not from Love.**

And so, it is to us, his people, in the present situation of our life, as we are huddled up in fear that Jesus comes with his message. “Peace Be With You.” After this message he told his apostles, “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” Then he breathed on them the Holy Spirit. When we are troubled and overcome by fear, we need to do two things. First we need to **pray to the Holy Spirit**, for strength and courage to overcome the fear. And we also need to remember that calling on the Holy Spirit is not some magic word or some magic mantra that will make the fear go away. **We need to go out of ourselves to others.** We need to get out of our comfort zones, out of the security of our personal ideas, our capabilities, our beliefs, and we need to look outward and reach out. When we are able to let go of our hang-ups and our fears, and when we are able to reach out to “others”, then we will be able to overcome our fears

This happens because **when we are able to recognize and accept our insufficiencies, then we are open to God and to his workings within us.** When we are able to make space for God and when we are able to allow God to act in our lives, only then we will have Peace. Peace comes when we realize our creatureliness and when we accept that God is in charge of our lives. Peace comes when we stop being god and allow the true God to act in us and guide us to our heavenly inheritance. Then all fears are overcome and we become truly free. So Peace comes when we allow God to be in control of our lives and when we stop acting like we know it all.

God bless you all, and keep all your families safe and healthy. Do not forget to pray as a family and to have moments of family togetherness in these days of lockdown. And remember, all the priests of the Parish are praying for you daily. May Mother Mary protect us always.

Yours affectionately in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Savio D’Souza sdb.
(Parish Priest.)

GOSPEL SHARING IN THE SCC MEETINGS: May - 2020

STEP 1. Opening Hymn

I have decided to follow Jesus (3)
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow (3)
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me (3)
No turning back, no turning back.



STEP 2. Read the Gospel Text Matthew 28:16-20.

Eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The word of the lord.

STEP 3. We pick out words and phrases that 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

Ever wondered how the disciples reacted to Jesus' instruction? Were they excited about this possibility? Or were they apprehensive about this mission? Ask yourself: how do you think you would respond if Jesus appeared to you and instructed you to "Go forth and teach all nations?" Would you be thrilled that Jesus had chosen and entrusted you with his mission of "teaching all nations?" Or did you find yourself coming up with a variety of reasons and excuses why you are unable to do so. We may say: "I have commitments, I am needed at home, I have a job and my family needs the salary. I can't just take off to go and "teach all nations." And for most of us that is true. We do have numerous responsibilities that weigh us down. However, it is also true that for most of us our call is to preach the Gospel every day right where we are. We can preach it by what we say, how we say it, what we do and how we do it. In a way, COVID-19 is also a battle for our souls, a 'spiritual battle for the 21st century'. Now more than ever is the call to be disciples, to reach out to others, to stoke the fire and keep the faith burning bright; to keep Jesus alive.

STEP 6. Concluding Hymn.

*Let all proclaim to the glory of the Father
That Jesus is Lord, that Jesus is Lord,
Let all proclaim to the glory of the Father
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Go to all the people, proclaim my name to all,
Make disciples everywhere, baptize them in my name,
Teach them to observe the things I've taught you all along.
Know that I am with you always until the end of time.

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

