

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time
(Mission Sunday)

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS:

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (7th OCTOBER)

You Shall Be My Witnesses

World Mission Sunday, instituted in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, and celebrated yearly is a 'feast of universal solidarity so that Catholics all over the world are reminded of our shared responsibility for the evangelisation of the world.' (US Bishops' Conference)

This year, Pope Francis chooses the theme, 'You shall be my witnesses,' (Acts 1:8) and his key message is, 'Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples,

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria and indeed to earth's remotest end.

(Acts 1:8)

has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. **To evangelize is the very identity of the Church.'**

'In evangelization,' the Holy Father adds, 'the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other.'

All of us are called to mission, none is spared. What can we learn from Scriptures today as we remember the Lord's call for each one of us to be His witnesses?

Psalm 34 is attributed to David, God's anointed to take Saul's place as king but Saul was seeking his life. David took matters in his own hands and he fled. He pretended to be insane as he was fearful. In his state of being, 'the poor man cried and the Lord heard him.' David became the King of Israel and went forth to become a credible witness to God.

Isn't David's cry our cry? Along with that cry of helplessness, we sometimes believe in the worst and we get ready to receive our comeuppances.

Yet, God knows when a sinner repents for Sirach 35 tells us, *'the prayers of the lowly pierces the clouds.'* God wants us to know we are not our sin. God doesn't condone our sins but when a sinner returns, He forgives. Many repentant sinners have become great witnesses!

Paul's letter in 2 Timothy 4 reveals a contrite heart at the finishing line of his ministry. He is a credible witness and is at the service of Christ till the very end.

As we go about our daily lives striving to live up to our calling, let us not be afraid to approach God and seek His mercy when we stray. Let the Publican teaches us humility so that pride will not stand in the way, as we strive to become missionary Disciples of Christ. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
35: 12-14, 16-18;

Psalms 33: 2-3,
17-19, 23;

2 Timothy 4:6-9, 16-18;

Luke 18: 9-14.