

newbee

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)

MONTHLY FOCUS

CELEBRATING HUMAN FRATERNITY

“Go Forward as Brothers and Sisters”

On 4th February, the United Nations observes the International Day of Human Fraternity. It coincides with the “World Interfaith Harmony Week” that takes place annually from 1st-7th February, which seeks a worldwide celebration of interfaith harmony. In a world where conflicts and strife are constantly resulting in suffering and death, the need to build human fraternity is all the more urgent.



“Every man is our brother, every woman is our sister, always”

(Declaration on Human Fraternity).



In this regard, the gospel passage today is filled with examples of human fraternity that exists between Jesus, the Son of God and the people, and between the people themselves. Jesus visits Peter’s mother-in-law and heals her. She, upon recovering from her sickness, immediately serves Jesus and the disciples. The people demonstrate the spirit of human fraternity by bringing to Jesus, all who are sick or possessed with demons. In spite of the huge crowd and the numerous cases of sickness and possession, he heals “many who were sick and casts out many demons”.

Then, Jesus could have stayed where he is because “everyone is searching for him”. However, he does not remain within the “comfort zone”. He is on the move - in order to preach the Good News of salvation to people in other towns. He is keenly aware that his mission of sharing God’s love cannot be limited to a certain place or group of people. Truly, God’s love and mercy has no boundaries nor is it limited by time and space, nor by ethnicity, religion and culture or social and economic status.

It would be comfortable for us to remain within our own ethnic, religious, cultural social or economic groups. However, Jesus calls us to move beyond these, and to share God’s love with all and to create a sense of human fraternity in our family, neighbourhood and society. As Pope Francis reminds us in his message on the Third International Day of Human Fraternity (2023): “Men and women of different religions walk towards God along roads that increasingly intertwine. **Every encounter can be an opportunity to oppose one another or, with God’s help, to encourage each other to go forward as brothers and sisters**”. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7;

Ps 146: 1-6;

1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23;

Mk 1: 29-39.

Please note that, due to certain circumstances, the presentation on the document Lumen gentium has been discontinued for the time being.

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