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Joy to the world THE LORD IS COME!



He rules the world with TRUTH and GRACE

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Novelty of Christianity is love, not revenge

Addressing the pilgrims present in St Peter's Square on Oct 8, 2017, at the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis said, "Here is the great novelty of Christianity; a God who though disappointed by our sins and our errors, does not go back on his word; he does not stop and, above all, does not take revenge".

The novelty is not simply love but love without expecting anything in return, love when others are hating you, rejecting you. It is loving those who love you and also those who hate you. It is natural to love those who love you and take revenge on those who hate you. This may be also the sum and substance of the teachings of many of the primitive religions but not in the case of Jesus' teaching.



God sent his only Son even when the whole world rejected him by sin. Instead of taking revenge God extended a helping hand to sinful humanity because he loves and is not ready to take revenge. "He loves and he waits to forgive us", says Pope Francis. This was the experience of the Israelites in their salvation history. When people sin, God sends prophets to warn them and to bring them to repentance. He longed to forgive the people and have them back. God's love was such that he even showed it to the full by offering the life of his only Son.

Jesus too is a teacher who teaches by his life. He offered his life for the people because he loved them and wanted them to be saved. He even prayed for those who were crucifying him and those who were mocking him when he was on the cross. He has given us a beautiful model for loving those who hate us. He loved those people who shouted "crucify him, crucify him"; Pilot, who condemned Jesus even though he knew that Jesus was innocent; the soldiers who inflicted scourging and forced him to carry the cross up the hill; the soldiers who nailed him to the cross, those who auctioned his clothes, those made fun of him; the thief on the left hand. He did love them when death was staring at him. A godly act of loving those who hate!

This is the message of Christmas for which we are getting ready. This is the life to which a 'missionary disciple' of Jesus is called to. It is proclaiming the message of love of God made manifest through Jesus even when the world hates us. Let the persecutions that we have to undergo for the sake of the Word not dampen our spirit. We shall take the threat of persecution as an opportunity to martyrdom. We have recent examples of martyrs for the faith in Kandhamal and in other parts of India. Their courageous and heroic deaths may inspire us to spread the message of love. We shall look up to Jesus on the cross and be filled with the same spirit of love that led Jesus to die on the cross for saving humanity that was on the trail of damnation.

May Mother Mary, the star of evangelization, guide us, inspire us and care for us as she did to the Son of God. Our prayer is: "May every Christian by his/her very nature be missionary of the love of God".

Fr Faustine L Lobo National Director (PMO-INDIA)