



நிலவே...உன்னை

நிலவே...உன்னை
பாடாத பாடகன் இல்லை

உன்னை
எழுதாத கவிஞன் இல்லை

உன்னை
அழைக்காத மழலை இல்லை

உன்னில்
மயங்காத மனிதரும் இல்லை

ஆனாலும் நீ...
யாருக்கும் சொந்தம் இல்லை

உன் இடத்திலேயே இருக்கிறாய்
இறங்கி வர மறுக்கிறாய்

அதனால்தான் நீ
நீயாகவே இருக்கிறாய்

பூமிக்கு என்றும்
நிலவாகவே இருக்கிறாய்

வானில் என்றும்
உலவிக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறாய்

உன் ஒளி மங்காது
உன் புகழ் நீங்காது

உனக்கு என்றும்
மகிமை குறையாது...

நிலவிடம் கற்றுக்கொள்வோம்
நாமாக நாமிருப்போம்...

- AGNES MATHILDA

Life After Easter

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?” (Jn 21:15).

Happy Easter. Lord is risen. He is alive.
He lives among us. Alleluia!

Easter Sunday is the most holy day of the year for us as Christians. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. Through His Resurrection, Jesus has won us a new life. He brings life to the dead, forgiveness to sinners, and glory to the saints. This new life gives us courage, hope, and wisdom. It is the time to rejoice and it is the time to reflect. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we are challenged to expand our Easter joy to more than just hope in eternal life.

Jesus revealed himself to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, He asked Simon, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Today Jesus asks the same question to each one of us. If our answer is ‘Yes’, Then He will ask us to do the same as He asked Simon to do – “Tend my sheep”. After the ascension of Jesus, the apostles carried on His mission and spread the good news throughout the world with help of the Holy Spirit. Even today some of our brothers and sisters do missionary works. In some parts of the

world Christians are not allowed freely to practice their faith. They risk their life, their jobs and reputations for the risen

Christ. They bring the faith to those who have nothing. They make the risen Christ visible among the non believers. They suffer patiently. They give themselves to the thankless tasks, and they speak the truth in love. How is it possible for them to do? It is simple. Only with the help of the risen Christ. The same risen Christ gives each one of us the courage to do His mission. Doing God’s Mission does not necessarily be in foreign land or spread the good news among the non believers. It can start right in our home, in our workplace, in our church, in our community among our friends and neighbors, in senior centers, in soup kitchens

After Mary has mistaken Jesus for the gardener, Jesus calls her by her name, “Mary” (Jn20:16). Today He calls each one us by our name and ask us to tend His sheep. Let us open our heart and mind to let the spirit work on us to do His mission.

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; 38so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Mt 9:37-38)

- AGNES P. RAJ

CATECHISM CLASS, YOUTH GROUP & PRAYER GROUP

Every Saturday except second Saturdays at

856 W El Camino Real
Mountain View CA 94040



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mother’s Day Celebration

MAY, 11 2013, 11:30 AM at Mission church, Santa Clara University -- POTLUCK Event

Camping at South Lake Tahoe

Memorial Weekend



Saint of the Month - St. Antony Ghislieri

Antony Ghislieri was born on January 7, 1504 at Bosco, Italy. His family was a very poor but a noble one. Due to his poverty his dream of becoming a priest was not going to come through. But due to divine intervention, the Dominicans of Voghera took him in and educated him. Antony changed his name to Michael and was trained in strong austerity and piety. He was ordained in 1528 and taught theology and philosophy for sixteen years. He became Novice and Prior of different houses of the order. He strove to develop the practice of the monastic virtues and spread the spirit of St. Dominic. He was very strict on himself as he fasted, did penance and spent long hours in meditation and prayer. He was a very simple man and even travelled on foot.

He courageously defended the teachings of the church. In 1557, Pope Paul II made him Cardinal. In 1559, he was sent to Mondovi to restore the faith and discipline impaired by wars. He opposed pope Pius IV when he admitted thirteen-year-old Ferdinand to the Sacred College. He also defeated the intention of Emperor Maximilian II to abolish ecclesiastical celibacy. When Pope Pius IV died, at the age of sixty-one he became Pope Pius V. After becoming a pope he still remained humble. He wore his old white Dominican habit. He distributed his belongings to the poor. As pontiff he practiced the virtues he had displayed as a monk and a bishop. His piety was not diminished, and, in spite of the heavy labors and anxieties of his office, he made at least two meditations a

day on bended knees in presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In his charity he visited the hospitals, and sat by the bedside of the sick, consoling them and preparing them to die. He washed the feet of the poor, and embraced the lepers. It is related that an English nobleman was converted on seeing him kiss the feet of a beggar covered with ulcers. He was very austere and banished luxury from his house. He raised the standard of morality, labored with his intimate friend, St. Charles Borromeo, to reform the clergy. He requested his bishops to reside in their dioceses, and the cardinals to lead lives of simplicity and piety.

At this time, the Turks were trying to conquer the whole Christian world. They had a great navy on the Mediterranean Sea. A Christian force went to battle them at a place called Lepanto, near Greece. From the moment the army set out, the pope prayed the Rosary. He encouraged the people to do the same. Thanks to the help of the Blessed Mother, the Christians won a great victory. In memory of this triumph he instituted the first Sunday of October the feast of the Rosary, and added to the Litany of Loreto the supplication "Help of Christians". We celebrate it each year on October 7.

Pope Pius V died in Rome on May 1, 1572. His feast is celebrated today because May 1 is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Pope Clement XI proclaimed Pius V a saint in 1712.

- Joe Natar

“உலகத்திலிருகிறவனிலும் உங்களிலிருக்கிறவர் பெரியவர்” (1 யோவான் 4)

மாறாத தேவனின் அன்பு என்றும் நம்மோடு!
தடைகள் சாத்தானாலே வரும்,
அதை முறியடிக்கும் பலம் தேவனால் வரும்!
மனச்சோர்வு சாத்தானால் வரும்,
அதை மேற்கொள்ளும் வல்லமை தேவனால்
வரும்!

தேவனின் மகிமையை நாம் உணரும்பொருட்டு,
சோதனைகளை அனுமதிப்போம்,
தாங்கக்கூடிய சோதனைகளையே தேவன்
அனுமதிப்பார் என்பதை நினைவில் கொள்வோம்!
சோதனையின் முடிவில்,
இரண்டத்தனையான ஆசிர்வாதம் நிச்சயம் உண்டு
என்ற திடமான நம்பிக்கை கொள்வோம்!

வாக்கு மாறாத அன்பின் ஆண்டவர்,
தேவையான உதவி,
தேவையான நேரத்திலே,
தேவையான இடத்திலே,
நமக்கு கிடைக்கும் படியாக கிருபை செய்வார்!

சத்ருவினால் வரும் இடறல்களை,
காருண்யம் என்னும் கேடகத்தால் மூடுவார்!
ஏனெனில், நம்மை தெரிந்து கொண்ட தேவன்

உலகத்தை ஜெயித்தவர்! மிகப்பெரியவர்!
எல்லாம் வல்லவர்!

- Kavitha Remi



Differences

Differences in human opinions are not new. It has been there from the beginning. If we take a look at our hand not all the five fingers are the same. In the same way when people gathered together whether it is inside a family, work place or worship place we hear from very low to very loud voices on various topics. Everyone wanted to prove they are the greatest and their opinion is the best and the perfect. As we argue today by religion, caste and denomination, the Pharisees and Sadducees did during Jesus' time. The Pharisees believed resurrection of the dead and existence of Angels but Sadducees did not believe them. They argued whenever they got a chance to prove who was right. But Jesus rebuked both of them whenever He got the chance. Let us read below how Jesus rebuked the Sadducees.

"The Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. Finally, the woman died. Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?" Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Matthew 22:23-32).

Now the Pharisees were very happy because they heard that Jesus fooled their friend Sadducees. They thought Jesus was going to say Pharisees were the greatest & the perfect people and their law was the best. So they gathered together and came to Jesus. "One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:35-40).

The Pharisees must have been very sad because Jesus did not say that they were the greatest & perfect people as they expected. None of them were the greatest & perfect in the eyes of Jesus. As Jesus said the entire law and Prophets hang on the two commandments only, not based on their own laws as defined by Pharisees and Sadducees.

Again, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees saying that their faith is only in words not in actions, whatever they do, they do it for people to see and it is for their pride only not for God. They preach but they

don't practice what they preach. They tell others to follow everything but they don't follow even a very small part of it, as we say today advice is only for others. It is clear from the following verses that Jesus gives more importance to our actions than anything else.

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for people to see" (Matthew 23:2-5).

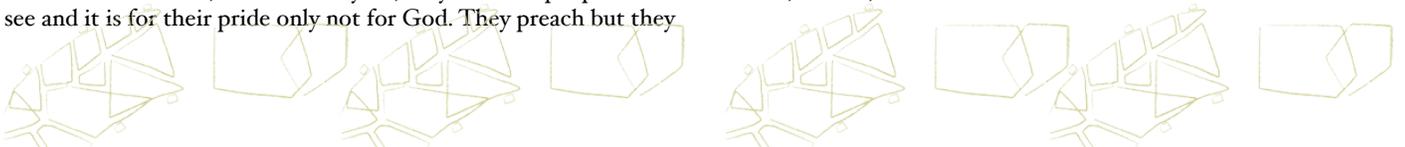
I used to think about the above verses when people complain saying that this is not right, that is not right, it must have been done this way not that way, this is not the proper procedure, etc. We can hear complains for every action we do but if we ask them to do a small help they will say all sorts of reasons "I am sick of it, my family is sick, I have to take care of my children and their studies because they are preparing for higher education, I have to take care of my family, I have to take care of my studies, etc". Is there anyone among us who does not have family? We can hear thousands of "Genuine" reasons. We are very interested to serve the Lord by tying up heavy loads on others' shoulders as done by the Pharisees. We will say to others that we are servant leaders but when it comes to us we will say "I want to be the lead in everything, I should be given high priority and everything should be done the way I suggested".

We can say Pharisees and Sadducees believed differently so they argued. But Jesus' disciples they all believed whatever Jesus taught and there were no differences in their beliefs still they argued. Why? They also wanted to prove who was the greatest?

How long they argued? All the way from Galilee to Capernaum. Jesus did not leave them alone even though they were His own disciples, the chosen and blessed people, they left behind everything to follow Jesus and they were the true followers of Christ. He rebuked them as we read below.

"They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:33-35).

The olden day disciples argued while they walked but we, the modern day disciples argue through emails by sitting in our homes and offices. There are many other incidents written in bible where Jesus rebuked all kind of people (Pharisees, Sadducees, teachers of the law, scribes, etc)



cont...

often calling them you hypocrites, you blind guides, you strain out a gnat but swallow a camel, you are like whitewashed tombs, you snakes, you brood of vipers. We can read the reasons for that from Matthew chapter 23.

After the death of Jesus when people started to fight saying that "I follow Paul, I follow Apollos, I follow Cephas, I follow Christ" St. Paul rebuked them by writing "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

If we read the book of "Acts" we know differences developed many times between the disciples. In his letter to Philippians St. Paul wrote from the prison "Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice" (Philippians 1:15-18). As St. Paul mentioned let us rejoice that Christ is proclaimed in every way instead of finger pointing at others. He did not say that we should argue with others and prove their motives are wrong and we are right.

A good joke about communism comes to my mind as I write this. Communism believes and treats all are equal. Then how come some people are living luxurious life and some are living in poverty in the communist countries? Because some people are more equal than others. In the same way God created all of us holy as the images of Himself then why we argue between us? Because in human eyes some people are more holy than others. That is the reason we argue to prove who is more holy and who is just holy.

Differences are inevitable in any human dealings. Instead of raising it as a big issue to create partition among us by constructing bullet proof walls between us so that no one can go from here to there or from there to here even the word of God is not allowed to pass through from one side to other and to dominate others and to prove others are wrong, a wise man will keep them low, leave it in the hands of God, waiting for His instructions and guidance by His words, ask Holy Spirit to give us wisdom to differentiate the good and bad not based on our own judgements and work together to add more and more people to the kingdom of God instead of fighting between us. Otherwise Jesus will rebuke us again and again as He did for the Pharisees and Sadducees and He will say to us "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock

people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them" (Matthew 23:13-14). Are we ready to go inside the kingdom of heaven? or Are we standing at the entrance, blocking the way to heaven to all the people behind us and locking them out of the kingdom of God? It is a good question for all modern day Christians.

According one statistic approximately 66 percent of world's population do not know who Jesus is or never heard about the name Jesus. If each one of us who knew Jesus knows this, we will work in some way (by our living so that other unbelievers around our house or around our workplace may believe in Jesus by seeing our living, by our prayers, by our hard work, by helping financially to those doing this work) to reduce this number, instead of fighting between us to prove who has more members, who are the holiest, who are the greatest. Moreover, if we work together as a team we can produce more fruits to God than we do individually, while we all march forward towards the same goal (heaven) as Mother Teresa said "I can do something you cannot do; you can do something I cannot do. Together let us do something beautiful for God." The different kinds of gifts we were given by Holy Spirit are to be shared not to be compared with others. Jesus said "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). By doing this we all become the partners in Jesus' mission to reach out the unreached "And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). If we look at the life of Jesus, He worked very hard day and night to spread the kingdom of God by going from city to city. And after He had risen He appeared to His disciples and told the same "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).

Let us pray Holy Spirit to give us wisdom to share our gifts with others not in a way to compare or compete with others. From my own experience I can think of one reason for not sharing is that we think everything we did by our own strength, our own intelligent, our own money, our own talents, our own hard work, our own ability to manage, our own leadership, our own spirituality and our own ideas and not from the gifts of God. If we think we are nothing in the eyes of God and whatever we have or we build up is from the grace of God not by the help of any human being then we will give up anything, share anything with others, cooperate with anyone, and ready to face any challenges in our family, work place or worship place because we place all the problems in the hands of God. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:5-8).

Let us pray to our Risen Christ that He should give us the mentality that we are nothing in His eyes, to trust Him in all situations and not relying on any human strengths.

— LEENUS RICH