

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year

(Isaiah 58.6-10, 1 Corinthians 2.1-5, Matthew 5.13-16)

Theme: "Allow Your Light To Shine!"

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ: The readings of today remind us again that one of the duties of our Christian calling is to identify with others in their moments of need. Our Lord Jesus gave us the example by identifying with us by His incarnation into our world. By our Lord's identification in our world, He liberated us from our situations of sorrow, sin, spiritual bondage, hunger, sickness and death.

This is what Jesus is calling us today as Christians; to follow in His footsteps by reminding us that we are the salt and light of the world. And as salt, we are meant to give taste to people's lives by helping them out in their moments of need. The same way Jesus invites us to allow our lights to shine and give light to others in moments of darkness in their lives. "In the same way, let your light shine before human beings, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Mt.5.13-16)

By salt and light, our Lord Jesus is talking about our gifts, talents, blessings, skills and time. Our various gifts and blessings in life are given to us by God for us to identify with others. We are called to be brothers and sisters to each other. We need to help one another in life with our various blessings.

Isaiah, the prophet of God, in our first reading today states, "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom by like noonday." (Is. 58.6-10) By this, the prophet Isaiah wants us to understand the mind of God on identifying with those in need. There is God's blessings, that accompanies every act of charity or help we render to others. When we are thinking about the needs of others and looking for a way to help them out, God is also, at the same time coming towards us with His blessings to help us come out of our own problems.

Beloved in Christ, let us bear in mind that as we allow our lights to shine upon others, God's light of mercy, healing, love, peace, and many other blessings will be shining on us.