

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year

(Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17-18, Matthew 4:12-23)

Theme: Unity & Oneness in Christ Jesus

Beloved brothers and sisters, *we are called to be one and united.* In our second reading today from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul said, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." (1Cor.1:10-13)

This noble call for unity and oneness is for all of us. By the virtue of our baptism in Christ Jesus we are all one, no matter the colour, race or country. Christ Jesus is the centre of our lives. And we have the same common goal in life, to love and maintain a deep personal relationship with God, relate with one another with an unconditional love as children of one family of Christ and to be united with our God at the end of our lives in this world.

This call for oneness and unity should begin from our homes and families. In our families, we have to make an effort that our families are one and united. Try and remove every obstacle in the family that brings division. If this obstacle of division in the family is a manner of behavior or conduct, we need to change for the good of the family.

Let us bear in mind that as a family, everything in the family, is for the common good of the members of the family. The joys and liabilities of the family should be shared by all in the family. When you privatize anything in the family, the problem that comes with and from it will become a personal problem.

On a serious note, let us not divide the children, even if there is a separation. Always let the children know that they are one. Do not allow physical separation in the family lead into spiritual separation. For we may be physically separated but united in spirit and mind.

The solution is love, prayers, forgiveness, tolerance and the simply letting go.

And in our relationships with people of other faiths in Christ Jesus, always relate and deal with them with love. For we all are children of one family in Christ Jesus. Remember Jesus' prayer before His ascension into heaven, "Father let them be one as we are one." (Jn.17)