



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 25, 2021

Dearly beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

**Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 9:10-18, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20**

**Holy Gospel: St Luke 9:10-17**

9.10 On their return the apostles told him what they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a city called Beth-sa'ida. 11 When the crowds learned it, they followed him; and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God, and cured those who had need of healing. 12 Now the day began to wear away; and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away, to go into the villages and country round about, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a lonely place." 13 But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in companies, about fifty each." 15 And they did so, and made them all sit down. 16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

### **Reflection:**

Three years of intense training under Jesus made the Apostles real soldiers for the Kingdom. Since the beginning of their call by the Lord, they were experiencing life in its full. They started getting exposed to wider meaning of being active and alive. The teachings of their Master transformed their views and the way of their thinking. They had to go through everything their Lord had to, challenging situations, hostility, scarcity of resources, growing needs of the flock like poverty, illnesses, issues of social justice, violations of human rights, exploitation initiated by people of authority, oppression and many other real problems their society encountered. They got introduced to a new concept of God who was so loving and forgiving and not a punishing person. Every other day they were listening to new interpretations of the Holy Scripture and guided to activities that reflected the presence of the Kingdom of peace and reconciliation. They got shifted from a life for themselves to a life for others. The training was intense and hard and almost impossible things made possible by the ordinary people who were in their moods of ambitions, anger, disappointments, aggression, jealousy, physical urges and narrow thinking. They also witnessed miraculous powers in Christ's actions. The apostolic community led by Jesus was so busy with travels, gospel work, charitable actions and interacting with various categories of people. They had to provide for the basic needs of people who were following them, hundreds or thousands at times. Here they had to encounter a situation which could have gone really bad with thousands feeling hungry without any food in stock. People were exhausted, apostles too. Exhaustion might tend anyone to skip their work and responsibilities and getting into rest. Apostles might had thought, before getting too late, if they could disperse the crowd to manage their needs by themselves, it would free them to enjoy the serenity of night. They requested Jesus to send people to local village. But they had to be thrown into a seriously challenging situation when Jesus asked them to serve the hungry immediately, then and there. They didn't know that their Master was going to reveal to them what actually the Kingdom of Heaven meant. Kingdom of God may carry



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hardships along with tremendous hidden possibilities. Faith should play the role, no matter what logical thinking humans hold. There is no need to panic. One would need to be calm during storm and to focus on God's graces and mercies. This is what Jesus the Son did. He kept himself cool, asked the crowd to sit in rows, took what little they had as resource, submitted to God's will and started serving it. This is what is called faith! Before giving up, look for possibilities. We could see how, after Jesus left the world, the Apostles practiced this throughout their ministry and how the attitude brought results. We have a wonderful lesson to learn from this text. Rely absolutely on God's Grace and always look for possibilities. Make use of available resources which can have multiplied effect. May the feast of the Apostles give us new insights which can transform our lives for the best!

## **Feasts:**

### **Lent of the Apostles - 'Sleehanompu' - June 16-30**

When Jesus called the twelve ordinary people - Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas and Judas Iscariot (Lk 6:14-16), they had no idea what would become of them. Jesus called them not to start a new religion but to start witnessing God's love in the world. Though they had human limitations, they learned from their Master how to change the world. Those twelve have now become almost 3 billion! If the current generation of the faithful try their best, how much the world could be transformed into Heaven with further spreading of God's love and reconciliation! It is our turn!

Holy Liturgy shall be conducted on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> evening with Evening Prayer starting at 06:30pm followed by Holy Qurbana. Please remember to send names for intercession at the earliest. RSVP is not required to attend the Holy Liturgy.

### **St Thomas Day**

Holy Liturgy shall be conducted on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> with Morning Prayer starting at 08:00am followed by Holy Qurbana. Please remember to send names for intercession at the earliest. RSVP is not required to attend the Holy Liturgy.

## **MMVS Diocesan Programs**

Annual Retreat:

Saturday, June 26- 09:00 am - 01:00 pm Speaker: Fr Thomas P John, Vicar St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Canada

Bible Quiz:

Saturday, October 02

Annual Conference:

Saturday, October 09

Bible Study:

Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church, Bensalem)

## **Canada Day**

We wish all parish members a happy Canada Day on July 1, 2021. With more vaccine rollouts against Covid-19 and more people receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, we hope to have better days ahead.



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## **Covid Charity**

Diocesan MMVS is collecting charity donation from everyone for helping Covid-19 affected patients who can't afford ventilator fee or hospital bills. Our prayerful presence and wholehearted support for our MMVS ministry is expected.

## **Virtual Meetings ahead**

Friday June 25 - Divyabodhanam, 07:30- 09:00 pm

Saturday, June 26 - SGOCT Choir Practice, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday, June 26 - SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday, June 27- MGOCSM – 07:00 – 08:30 pm

## **Choir Practice on Saturdays**

We have scheduled choir practice on Saturdays from 04:30 to 06:30 pm. We request choir members and Acolytes, especially those who are scheduled to take part in Holy Liturgy on respective Sundays, ensure their participation. Please join.

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the English Taksa of Jacob Bar Sleeti.

## **Please see below the Link for Live Streaming**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA)

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all harm and heal the entire world.

Yours in Christ,

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