

Papal Seminary Completes 125 Years

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The Papal Seminary which completed 125 years this year has had a steady progress with remarkable stability. Pope Leo XIII with an evangelical confidence said “Your own sons shall be the ministers of your salvation, O INDIA”

His prophetic assurance has proved true in the power of Christ. Today all the Bishops of India are Indians. Almost all priests are Indians and so also the Religious men and women.

The Papal Seminary as a single House of Formation has made the greatest has made the greatest contribution to such a phenomenal growth of the Church in India. So the Papal Seminary has been a huge success as a House of Formation.

“Your own sons shall be the ministers of your salvation, O INDIA”

So this historic occasion is to thank and praise God for the marvels He has done through our Beloved Home of Love, the Papal Seminary.

With all humility I personally thank God that I was privileged to be in the Seminary as a seminarian and then immediately to be a member of the staff. I am also aware that

what I say about the seminary is EQUALLY True of Jnana-Deepa Vidayapeeth JDV, because for us EXISTENTIALLY the SEMINARY and the JDV are identified. I am also aware that INSTITUTIONALLY the two are distinct for OBVIOUS REASONS.

The MISSION of the seminary is to train you Beloved Seminarians to become priests and to equip you for the priestly ministry.

Thus you are the soul, the life-blood of the seminary. You are the FIRST, the CENTRE, the staff and all others and everything in the seminary is at your SERVICE. Why is all this? That you may become Holy Priests. That is all.!

In truth, as the letter to the Hebrews teaches us that there is only one PRIEST, one HIGH PRIEST, JESUS CHRIST. There is only ONE PERFECT SACRIFICE, the sacrifice of JESUS on the CROSS in union with LAST SUPPER.

So we all have to realize that on our own and by OURSELVES we are nothing. We are priests because we share in the ONE UNIQUE PRIESTHOOD of CHRIST, and our DAILY celebration of the Eucharist is a repetition, a memorial, a PERFECT REFLECTION of CHRIST one SACRIFICE and one Eucharist.

“I am the Vine, you are the BRANCHES, he who sees you sees ME”.

AND this Exalted DIGNITY. This is our IDENTITY. ALL other posts, positions, honours should not go to our head, nor should we aspire for them.

As priests in JESUS, we like JESUS, we are PREACHERS PROCLAIMERS of the Word of God.

Secondly we are to be CELEBRANTS, Ministers of the SACRAMENTS and worship and thirdly we are SHEPHERDS of our people and our community.

We will be authentic PREACHERS, CELEBRANTS and SHEPHERDS, LEADERS only if we are intimately united to Jesus in mind, in heart in BODY and in day to day life. This is what Jesus means “I am the Vine, you are the BRANCHES, he who sees you sees ME”.

St. Paul says “I do not live, CHRIST lives in me.” For me, St. Paul said “life is Christ and death is gain. I count all as rubbish. I only want to be found in Christ and to know Him.”

For this we must be DISCIPLES of Jesus and be configured to Him as the document on Priestly Formation emphasizes.

Therefore everything in the seminary; our worship, our studies, our community life, Eating and Drinking in the DINING HALL, Recreations, Games, Annual EVENTS, celebrations all this should help us to be Christ’s disciples, to be configured to Him. To be PRIESTS in Christ according to His mind and heart.

Then as Pope Francis teaches us, we shall be JOYFUL, MISSIONARIES giving to the PERIPHERIES.

We are aware that all this is not smooth sailing. It is full of challenges, demands of problems, ups and downs. This was the life experience of JESUS, the only Priest.

But as we joyfully thank Jesus, let us also trust in Him. For He assures us “Fear NOT. I am with you unto the end of the ages”

Homily Notes

July 1, 2018: XIII Sunday of the Year

Peter's Pence Sunday

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15; Mk 5:21-43.

Hope (the last tool)

Today's liturgy of the word clearly shows that our Loving God is a gracious generous giver. In the gospel reading we can see the humble touch with deep faith of a woman—suffering from haemorrhages—to her healer. Woman is suffering from physical illness (haemorrhages), social illness (rejection and cannot approach Jesus directly) and psychological suppression (Mk 5:26). Now all that she has after spending everything is little hope. Hope is almost extinguishing. Last attempt is to get healed by divine healer. Her hope moves her to touch the fringe of Jesus' cloth. That humble touch with deep faith made her to experience the complete healing.

In the second part of the gospel we see the divine touch—with power and authority—of Jesus gives life to a little girl. Here we the subject is completely nil of faith and hope, at that moment others can always lit the hope of the subject through theirs. By the powerful request of Jairus, the hope and faith of a little girl is made to shine again.

All these 'gracious acts of our Lord Jesus Christ' (1Cor 8:9a) should remind us each and every moment of our existence that 'God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living' (Wis 1:13).