

Dear brothers,

I am happy to wish you a HAPPY EASTER. May the Risen Lord fill us all with his joy and peace.

“Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19).

With these words the Risen Lord met the apostles. His presence brought them peace and joy. The death of Jesus shattered their life and pushed to a hopeless situation. The fear for their life led them to remain behind the closed doors, but when the Lord appeared to them, they were strengthened. Peace is the message Jesus brought to the world. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours” (Lk 2:14) was the song of the angels when he was born. The prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus as “the Prince of Peace”(Is 9:6). The parting gift of Jesus to his apostles was, “Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, and this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid” (Jn 14:27). In his experience of accompanying the Corinthian community St. Paul exhorted the members, “God is a God not of disorder but of peace” (1Cor 14:34). While animating the community of Galatians he presents peace as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal5:22). As we are celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord, the Risen Lord invites us to be the messengers of his peace.

Peace is not only physical safety and political harmony, but it is unity and accord; it is “the spiritual harmony brought about by an individual’s restoration with God.” It is a result of response to our God experience. Those who have experienced peace in God will work of the peace among people. Thus they start living as children of God. Jesus tells, “Blessed are the peace makers: they shall be recognized as children of God (Mt5:9).” On the contrary those who experience “the god of confusion”, will go for disturbing the social harmony, creating division and destroying peace. It is the pride that leads us to destroy the peace both in the personal and social levels. Humility and service mindedness pave way to discover the importance of every individual and give a due respect he or she deserves.

In the present scenario of the world, we are witnessing the fragility of peace being lacerated by the individual and institutional pride. While on the one side the persons of good will are working for peace, on the other side the poisonous elements of the humanity is promoting the ways to destroy peace among people. In the name of exaggerated nationalism and self-assertion, both the individual as well as the society are becoming victims of these false approaches.

The call of the Risen Jesus for Peace is reminding us a touching gesture of the Holy Father Francis who on 11<sup>th</sup> April this year knelt down and kissed the leaders of South Sudan, a country that suffers from civil war, asking them to work for peace in their nation. “At the end of a highly

unusual spiritual retreat for the political leaders of warring factions, Pope Francis knelt at the feet of the leaders of South Sudan, begging them to give peace a chance and to be worthy "fathers of the nation." As a brother, I ask you to remain in peace. I ask you from my heart, let's go forward. There will be many problems, but do not be afraid," (Catholic News Service, April, 11, 2019).

The message and action of the Pope reminds us how to be a channel of the Peace of the Lord in this world. To be a messenger and channel of peace, we are called to be generous in loving, forgiving, understanding, consoling and helping. It is through these acts we manifest our openness for peace and harmony both in ourselves and in the society.

In this edition of Namaste, let us gratefully and prayerfully remember and pray for our missionaries departed to the House of Our Father: Fr. Santhanasamy, CMF (11-2-2019) and Fr. Abraham Valiakandam, CMF (18-3-2019). May their soul rest in peace.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL.