

## Guidance to the Good News Message for Community Day – April 2013

### Happy Easter!

#### 01. Introduction

This is the Season of Resurrection. All four Gospel writers have recorded the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is a fact. ‘.....“Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.....” (Luke 24:5-6).

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is of utmost significance to the entire Christendom. As Saint Paul says, “And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion .....” (1 Cor15:17).

If not for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ Christianity would not exist today.

That Christianity is the Risen Lord and that a ‘Christian’ is one who has met the Risen Lord and is associating Him, was made evident in the first of the Commitment Talks. It is possible to meet the Risen Lord and have a relationship with Him only because He is Alive and lives amongst us.

#### 02. i. Read Acts 9:1-9. Then discuss the following in small Groups :

- a. Saint Paul meets the Risen Lord for the first time. Discuss the manner in which he met the Lord
- b. How did Saint Paul persecute Lord Jesus?

- ii. \* As recorded in the book of Acts, a bright light flashed around Saul, and he heard a voice calling him. There is no record that he saw the Risen Lord with his own eyes other than in the manner described. So this is how Saul met the Risen Lord. His meeting the Risen Lord had a tremendous impact on him and there was a real turnaround in his life
- \* He learnt that persecuting Christians is a persecution of the Lord Jesus
- \* When we read the book of Acts and the letters he wrote, it is evident that he had a relationship with the Lord his whole life thereafter. As he says in Galatians 1:11-12, the Good News he preached was not something he learnt from any human being. It was revealed to him by none other than the Lord Himself. That is the result of the relationship he had with the Lord.

#### 03. Guidance for discussion

- i. have you met the Lord in a specific manner?
- ii. Do you remember the first time you met the Lord in this manner? Discuss in small groups
- iii. Did that event have an impact to the extent that it changed your life thereafter?
- iv. Do you experience the Risen Lord in your daily life? In what way do you experience Him? In what manner do you have a relationship with Him?

#### 04. The Risen Lord abides throughout the whole universe and beyond. Let us list a few places and instances we can meet Him?

- i. Through all the sacraments we receive, especially through the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) which we can receive again and again

- a. The Risen Lord abides in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore we can meet Him by participating in Holy Mass, by receiving the host, and staying in the presence of the Holy Eucharist
  - b. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have been taught to receive this at least once a month. Were you able to meet the Lord through a meaningful confession at least during this season of Lent?
- ii. Through fellowship:
- Mathew 18: 20 “For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them”
- a. Do you meet the Lord in your family? It is something you can do on a daily basis. Discuss how, with examples.  
Eg. By talking to each other affectionately. Doing housework in a spirit of cooperation, appreciating, helping, forgiving, each other, accepting each other as they are, and loving them
  - b. Discuss actions one can take to promote unity and fellowship within the Praise villages and Shravaka community  
Eg. Through acts of forgiveness, accepting people as they are, helping those in need, etc.
  - c. Discuss how one could unite with the country  
Eg. Uniting with those in distress, those in need, those marginalized, victims of injustice and unfairness
    - Discuss what one could do for them. At least do we show enough concern to know about such incidents/instances that affect innocent people such as these
    - Do we show concern for our neighbours, especially those in need, whether they have food and drink, whether they are sick or unwell, etc.
- iii. The Risen Lord is present in everyone. In Colossians 1:27, Saint Paul says, “God’s plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. And the secret is that Christ is in you.....” Therefore our Lord says, “I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!” (Mathew 25:40)
- iv. The Lord is manifest in nature. Let us conserve nature
- 05.i. Let us pray for power to experience the Risen Lord in various ways throughout this month, especially in the sacraments, and in unity/fellowship
- ii. When you get a free time today (Community Day), make an effort in the name of the Lord to get to know a few people whom you do not know very well. Find out about their well-being. See the Risen Lord manifested in them through the eye of faith. Experience the manifestation of the Risen Lord in unity/fellowship

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