

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

(Acts 13.14,43-52, Revelations 7.9,14-17, John 10.27-30)

Theme: You Will Be Happy Again!

In our reflection this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, I would like to draw our attention to the second reading today from the Book of Revelation. Here, John in his vision saw a great multitude from different parts of the world, from every tribe and race, rejoicing and singing praise for ever before the throne of God and the victorious Lamb.

When John inquired about these people and where they have come from, one of the heavenly elders explained to him, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night." (Rev. 7-9, 14-17)

We have to understand, that, these people were not created in heaven, they were not born saints in this world. They are people like you and me, born in this, our world that is full of various challenges and trials. Some of them were people with families, who had husbands, wives and children like ours today. Some were single people like most of us today. And some men and women who were ministers of the gospel, who lived and served in the same Catholic Church we, are in today, with its trials, short comings, persecutions and challenges.

I want us to realize, that our lives in this world is full of challenges. We can witness these challenges in the areas of our "Faith"; like what

is happening in our church today, in our various "vocations" in life, in our "families", in our places of work and in our schools.

In matters of our "Faith", we need to profess our belief in Christ in and out of season. We need to pray for God's forgiveness for our sins and short comings. Holiness of life should be our goal always. But then, we also have to realize that no one is perfect in this world, only God is perfect. We are all striving to be holy and perfect like our God.

In our families and marriages; let us, always realize that, no husband is perfect and no wife is perfect. The same is true with our children. We need to forgive and accept our husbands, wives and children back. We also need to forgive and welcome our parents again. Let us, learn to love and trust each other again. We need to put the past behind us and start again to live happily as a united family again.

In the other areas of life, do you see this life as a burden? Is it because, you have no job now, or sickness in your life or in your family? Is it series of deaths in your family? Do not allow these challenges to deprive you of true happiness, joy and peace that the risen Lord has given us. These trials and challenges are phases, they will come to pass.

Beloved in Christ, with faith and prayers, let us stand firm in our relationship with Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who assured us: "I give them eternal life, and they well never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10: 27-30)