



### **Scripture Nugget - Christians are commissioned to make a difference in the world**

*Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20).*

**Meaningful change starts within ourselves.** *"What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the One He sent." (John 6:28-29).* When we want to change the world for the better, it is more effective that we start with our immediate world i.e. our own heart and mind. It is not as easy as it seems. Pride is present in every soul and blinds us to our sins. This is the reason Jesus tells us to correct our own faults first before we try to correct others (cf. Matthew 7:3-5). This godless world is constantly beckoning and promulgating its values to us, and in such a situation a great danger to souls is the inability to recognize sin for what it is, or the trivializing of sin or getting used to it. As St Paul exhorts us, we should try to work hard at our salvation; lest we are Christians only in name. We need to remind ourselves that our salvation is won at great price by Christ. Without a great desire to respond to God's call to holiness, quiet reflection and daily personal prayer, our faith will surely be undermined by complacency, indifference, apathy, ignorance and lukewarmness. At the end of the day, we will find it difficult to hold on to our faith let alone advance in personal holiness.

**We are asked to change the world through the spreading of God's love.** *I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35).* Bringing souls to Christ is not the work of priests and religious only but of all who bear the name of Christ. In the Great Commissioning before His ascension into heaven, Christ Himself commissioned us to share in His salvific mission. In the eyes of God, a great charitable act that we can render to another person is to actively help that soul gain eternal salvation. In the practical earthly sense, this objective may not seem urgent though it stands for all eternity. Therefore, whatever good we do to another person whether it be material, psychological or spiritual, it must be geared to this highest mission. Thus, we may help a person materially in the short term perspective but with the long term perspective of helping the person gain his/her glorious eternal inheritance.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, through my Baptism, I have been given a unique share in Your salvific mission. Through my Confirmation, I was given the honour of becoming a soldier in Your mighty army. The immense power You put into my hands for battle is not power coming from military weapons but from the all-surpassing power of Your grace and love. My enemies are not human flesh and blood but Satan and the evil spirits. Pour Your love into my heart so that I may love souls as You do and fight valiantly for the salvation of souls as befitting a child of God. When I finally appear before Your glorious throne on the day of my judgement, I must not be empty-handed but must prove myself instrumental in drawing many souls to You, especially those nearest and dearest to me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.