

Acts 9:1-20

John 6:52-59

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, the 1st of May, the workers day, we honour also St. Joseph the worker. St. Joseph was not only the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, he was also an honest man and a hard worker. Through his hard working, he earned a fair wage and provided for the family. In order to honour the workers and their work, Pope Pius XII in 1955 named St. Joseph as the patron of workers. We all are called to participate in the creative work of God through our work and at the same time, we also have to respect and honour all those people who work for our betterment.

When we come to the readings, today in the first reading, we hear the report about the conversion of St. Paul. Saul the ardent Jew who was profoundly serious about protecting Judaism, was persecuting the Christians. So, Jesus meets Saul on his way to Damascus. After meeting Jesus, Saul became Paul, a new person, one-time persecutor of the Church became an ardent preacher of the gospel and protector of the Church.

In our gospel today, Jesus says, ***just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.***

Dear friends,

The words of Jesus became real in the life of Paul. After meeting Jesus, after experiencing the risen Lord, Saul not only became Paul, but he started living for Christ and living with Christ, he completely dedicated his life and work for Christ and for his Church. In His 2 letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul would say, ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***

That's what happened to him, he became a new person and all his past convictions passed away. Once again St. Paul

would say in his letter to the Galatians, ***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

Till the end of his life, St. Paul lived true to his conviction and to his faith, he lived for Christ and even gave up his own life for Christ.

Dear Friends,

It should be our experience too. The meeting with Jesus changed the life of Paul. In the same way, we too meet Jesus everyday in our life, in our brothers and sisters, in his Word and in a special way in the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus. The question for our reflection today is: do I have the same experience as Paul, when I meet Jesus in my own life in different forms? Has my life changed for better like Paul after meeting Jesus? How much have I dedicated my life for Christ and for his Church? has my life been the source of inspiration for others to experience Christ in their life? Am I able to say, like Paul, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me? Or are we still in a situation to ask Jesus without knowing him, who are you Lord?

My dear friends,

If we have still not experienced Jesus very intimately, let us ask him, to enlighten our mind, help us with his Spirit, so that we may know him, experience him and like St. Paul, dedicate and commit ourselves for Christ and for his Church.