

“I Will Draw Everyone to Myself”

Today the fifth Sunday of Lent shows that we have just one week before Palm Sunday that will usher us into the Holy Week. Today’s Gospel of St. John describes the struggles of Jesus as the last moment of his life, which is part of John’s account of the events of the Gethsemane as the case in the Synoptic gospels. Jesus in his human nature suffered. He was troubled, scared, and worried. Thus, the letter to the Hebrews in our second reading describes, “In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears....” Nevertheless, he has an unshakeable trust in God the Father who did not disappoint him.

The mission of Christ is the fulfillment of the prophecy of the New Covenant of Jeremiah, which we read in the first reading. It is a solemn promise of the choice God will make of his people by forgiving their sins and remembering their sins no more. It is a precious gift of everlasting love. Hence, the mission of Christ is that all men and women would be saved. The cross is the symbol of this mission and invitation Jesus gives us “I will draw all everyone to myself”

It is a solemn invitation which we can say yes or no. Our yes or no shows itself in the choices we make in our day-to-day life. As we are gradually coming close to the end of this year’s Season of Lent, it is a good time for each of us to ask ourselves how we respond to this invitation God gives us. If I do, what commitment do I have to show for it? This commitment shows itself in self-denial as Jesus describes, “unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a great of wheat.” Do I compromise doing the will of God because I want to satisfy my selfish desire? Do I recognize God’s presence in my life or wait to search for him in difficult moments? Am I committed to my faith and struggle to strengthen my faith in God through prayers? Let us ask him that the gift of his love and salvation he has given us will be fruitful in our lives here and hereafter. Amen.