

## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME OF THE YEAR A; HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS**

**READINGS; 1<sup>st</sup> Is. 51:7-10, 2<sup>nd</sup> 1Cor. 2:1-5, Mt. 5:13-16**

**Introduction;** if you want to be not only successful, but personally happy and permanently successful, then do your job in a way that, even when you are out of sight, folks will always know which way you went by the lamps left behind (Kenneth McFarland). This is what the readings of today call us to be and become. Prophet Isaiah speak of sharing with the needy, St Paul emphasizes on allowing the Holy Spirit to act within us, then in that way we can truly be the salt and the light of the world in the words of Jesus.

**Reflection;** Isaiah demands that we share food with the hungry, shelter the stranger and help the needy, to be Christians means to live for others as Jesus did. Our lives are marked with holiness not for personal and private use but for all people of good will. As followers of Christ we are invited by Him who said “I am the light of the world” Jn 8:12, to be the same to others by our very life, words and actions. During our baptism the church handed to us a lighted candle as a sign of our new status, ways of life, which then has to be kept shining before others till the last day.

**Today in our affluent society,** the message of Jesus crucified sounds too hard and rigorous. But Paul made Jesus the crucified and the Risen Savior the center of his preaching. He says “for it is the suffering on the cross and the glory of the resurrection that bring man joy and peace”. When St Paul came to the Corinthians, he did not preach the good news with human eloquence but with trembling allowed the wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit work through him. This is exactly what Jesus says when he calls us, the salt and the light of the world.

**Either in word or deed,** we Christians are called upon to see to it that our practice of faith gives praise to God and manifest the love that Christ has for us in his death and resurrection and ascension into heaven. We should do all things with love and putting Christ as the center of all that we do. We should not take for granted the expressions that Jesus used and use today as he addresses us; the symbolism contained in salt and light carry many compliments for his followers. At this time we ought to mention some uses of salt, and light both in the context of history and our times.

**Salt purifies;** the romans considered salt as the purest of all things because it is the product of the sun and the sea. Jesus meant that his followers the Christians of all times should be models of purity like the salt. **Salt preserves;** people of old used salt as a preservative. It prevented rotting or decay. Christians should have this edifying quality whenever they live and share their lives with others especially in finding solutions to human contemporary challenges.

**Finally;** salt flavors, food without salt is insipid, it is the Spirit of Christ which brings flavors to Christian lives and makes them tasty and meaningful. We pray today that like St Paul we may have the humility and courage to let God work within us, to bring meaning to life and the world.