

INTRODUCTION

We, the Verbum Dei Family, pray together because as a family we have a common goal and a common task which is the mission. This needs collaboration among the members of the family. Our general objective for this month is to help each member to sustain the family and thus we find each other a special place so that we can commune together with the missionary perspective of God.

It is a great privilege that we have this family because it is an avenue to exercise our calling. God knows each one of us inside out, thus; He trusts and believes in us. He will give us the capacity if we allow ourselves to be His feet, arms, and mouth. He does not underestimate us as sinful people, but He has chosen us to fulfill His mission. So, we should never reject His invitation for He promised to be with us, to protect us and even to capacitate us in doing the mission.

To work in accordance to God's perspective is to become totally open to His will. Just like Mama Mary who once said "Yes" to God. Because of her great faith that made her obey and listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she was able to do the mission in the service of those who were in need.

So let us say "yes" to God's invitation and put ourselves completely in obeying His will so that our brothers and sisters will become more aware that life has its special purpose and meaning. This can only be fulfilled if we heed His call. As members of the family, we have to be aware of our responsibilities with one another, to propagate our faith to bring back into the bosom of the Father, his scattered children.

MONDAY

Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I am called to the mission

"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (**Jeremiah 1:4-10**)

There are many brothers and sisters who are blinded by the world of today. Some could only remember God during Sundays, others only during special occasions, some when they have illness, problems or in dire need. But it is more painful to ponder on those people who have forgotten and neglected God because of too much exposure to computer games and media. They have changed their values and made themselves far from God. They have been becoming emotionally insensitive and apathetic to the needs of others and the invitation of God. As a member of the Verbum Dei Family, what can I help towards my brothers and sisters? Am I ready to commune with the missionary perspective of God?

TUESDAY

I am called to be the light for others.

⁵ And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to re-unite Israel to him; -I shall be honoured in Yahweh's eyes, and my God has been my strength. - ⁶ He said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth.'

(**Isaiah 49:5-6**)

¹⁰ He felt hungry and was looking forward to his meal, but before it was ready he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven thrown open and something like a big sheet being let down to earth by its four corners; ¹² it contained every kind of animal, reptile and bird. ¹³ A voice then said to him, 'Now, Peter, kill and eat!' ¹⁴ But Peter answered, 'Certainly not, Lord; I have never yet eaten anything profane or unclean.' ¹⁵ Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, 'What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane.' ¹⁶ This was repeated three times, and then suddenly the container was drawn up to heaven again. ¹⁷ Peter was still at a loss over the meaning of the vision he had seen, when the men sent by Cornelius arrived. They had asked where Simon's house was and they were now standing at the door, ¹⁸ calling out to know if the Simon known as Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹ While Peter's mind was still on the vision, the Spirit told him, 'Look! Some men have come to see you.'

(**Acts 10:10-19**)

God is so intelligent because when He started to create the world, He created light to see the beauty of His creations. Therefore light is very essential

in order to see the beauty in us, the purpose of our being and our identity. It is very difficult to recognize these attributes and the task that God has entrusted to us if we are in darkness. It is very necessary for us to connect ourselves to the real source of light who is God. Because through Him, we are able to see, assess and evaluate our Christian journey – our relationship with one another. His light allows us to see the cobwebs that stick to our soul and allows us to remove them and how to restore our broken relationship with Him by our disobedience and indifference. By His light, it also encourages us to look at the situation of our neighbors and build in our midst the Kingdom of God and we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Am I ready to be a light to others? What must I do to sustain the light in the community and others?

WEDNESDAY

I have come to obey His will.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." (**John 4:34-38**)

Food is the nourishment of the body that gives energy to perform our daily tasks, so is the soul that needs nourishment to sustain energy during

temptations and weaknesses. Listening, assimilating, living, and announcing the word of God are the perfect combinations to keep our faith burning for the love of God. These exercises give us the energy to continue the mission that has been entrusted to us. We should include in our prayer each member of our Verbum Dei Family that he/she may become more willing to be of service to God through others in the propagation of faith. Each one has a significant role in the family. His/her contribution to the mission brings prosperity to the community. Do I nourish myself from the word of God every day?

THURSDAY

I am for the mission

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.³ He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt."⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.⁵ If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. **(Luke 9:1-6)**

Discipleship is a commitment that is something to be proud of because it is God himself who calls us and puts his trust on us to be his collaborator, at the same time to be his apostles. He has delegated the task to us for he knew that we are responsible and can be trusted. He could see in our hearts the sincerity and the ability to tackle the task. He chose us

among the rest and there's nothing to be afraid and to be ashamed of in performing the mission because it is our God and Father who is the ultimate answer of our longing and completeness. How do you show your pride being a missionary disciple?

FRIDAY

I am a missionary

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt. 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in their faith, are agents of evangelization and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged here and now to be actively engaged in evangelization. Indeed, everyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.

(Evangelii Gaudium 120)

By virtue of baptism, we became prophets to proclaim the good news to everyone. Let's widen our perspective about redemption that it is not meant only for us but for all the living creatures in the world. We, as agents of evangelization, need to pray together in accordance to the reality we belong. It is in constant prayer that we gain strength from each other's experiences. Moreover, we develop solidarity within the community and in Christ, our head and

model who is the source of our strength to persevere in fulfilling the mission.

SATURDAY

I am ready for the harvest

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he/she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus. We no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather "missionary disciples". If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully. "We have found the Messiah!" (Jn. 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritan came to believe in Him "because of the woman's testimony" (Jn. 4:39). So too St. Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, "immediately proclaimed Jesus" (Acts 9:20; cf. 22:6-21) so what are we waiting for? **(Evangelii Gaudium 120)**

Let us open our heart and mind for Jesus so that we will become the Samaritan woman whose love for Christ keeps burning that she could barely contain it in her heart but rather proclaim her experiences with Jesus unto others. It is a big challenge to all of us missionary disciples to soar higher with our Christian love through our daily encounter with Jesus until such time that His love will overflow from our hearts and we can't wait to spread His love to others.

SUNDAY READINGS

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

"I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest." (John 4:35)

Theme for the month:

Our Missionary intentionality in our organizing.

General Objective of the month:

To help in the development of our Family and sustain our Family.

Each member is important and have a place. For this reason, we are called to help each one to find his/her place of collaboration.

September 8-14, 2014

Objective of the week:

To make us grow in consciousness that as we commune with the missionary perspective of God in prayer, we are awakened of the great trust of God to each member in the community as His apostles; thus leading us to value each one of them.