**YOU ARE WITNESSES**

Today is the third Sunday of Easter Year B. In our liturgy one word that comes through our reading is the word 'witnessing'. In our first reading, we see Peter witnessing to the resurrected Christ, by ministering to the people and making them come to terms with the reality that Jesus has resurrected from the dead. He also went a step further by making excuses for their leaders and themselves. His action shows us that as disciples and witnesses we have to be slow in judging people and imbibe the way of Jesus through showing mercy.

When you look at the second reading of today, you see injunction given to us by John who says that to be a true follower and disciple of Jesus one needs to keep the commandment of God. He points out the fact that one of the ways to witness for Christ in our time is by living out the word of God in our daily lives. As we live out his commandments, we become true witnesses of his word that we hear and carry in our lives.

Lastly in the gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus appears to his disciples. He assured them that he is risen and tries to strengthen their faith, raised their consciousness about the need to be true witnesses of his presence among his people. When we take all these into consideration, one thing that readily comes to mind is the fact that we are all called to witness to the resurrected Christ in our daily lives with the type of life we lead.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, what is the quality of our witnessing for Christ? It is important that our daily lives show that we are truly ambassadors for Christ.

By so doing, our witnessing will bear lasting fruits in the lives of all. The following illustration will help us measure the strength of our witnessing.

A dialogue between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend:

"So, you have been converted to Christ?"

"Yes",

"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me: What country was he born in?"

I don't know."

"What was his age when he died?"

"I don't know."

"How many sermons did he preach?

"I don't know".

 "You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ!"

"You are right. But this much I know: Three years ago, I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling apart. My wife and children would dread my coming home each day. Now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is a happy home. AII this Christ has done. This much I know of him!"

This is a powerful witness to the Risen Christ. We are called to give witness to Him in this manner.