

KNOWING THE ESSENTIALS...!

From the first letter of St. John we read that, ‘our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything’ (cf. 1Jn 3:18-20). Barnabas demonstrated this real and active love by ‘taking charge of Saul and introduced him to the apostles and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached bold at Damascus in the name of the Lord...’. This action ensured Saul’s acceptance among the brethren and ‘he now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord.’ Again, when the Hellenists became determined to kill Saul because he argued with them, and ‘when the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus’ (Acts 9:26-31). The other essentials we could learn are found in these words of St. John – ‘His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to’ (1Jn 3:23).

Beloved People of God, when we learn and know the essentials of our faith, its intricacies will not be confounding. Accepting and working our way through these intricacies will not be impossible. Everything is narrowed down to believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and loving one another as he has asked us to.

We pray that we all learn and put these essentials into active use. This way shall, in the words of the Psalmist, ‘all the earth remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him...’ (Ps 21: 26ff)

Fr. Ted

All to Jesus – Through Mary our Mother

Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

28th April 2024