

## THE PROPHECY OF JESUS' MISSION

Each of us was sent to the earth for a mission. God has a plan for each of us. To understand this better, let us reflect on God's words through Prophet Jeremiah; "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). None of us came to the earth by accident. We are supposed to encourage each other to fulfill our mission. After talking to some people about God's plan for each of us on earth, I jokingly told them that if those whom God planned to produce the cure for covid-19 and cancer have been killed through abortion and other means that we are in trouble in this world. There are people who initially did not want to be who they are today but become who they are today because that is God's plan for them. The way God planned the coming of Jesus and His mission on earth is the way He planned ours, the only difference is that His plan for us was not prophesied by known prophets. Satan through King Herod wanted to destroy God's plan and the mission of Jesus Christ on earth by trying to kill Jesus as an infant but through the actions of Jesus' parents, Jesus was saved. When the Angel of God told Joseph about King Herod's intent to kill Jesus and asked him to take Jesus and flee, Joseph obeyed. If Joseph did not obey, Jesus might have been killed before fulfilling His mission on earth. A priest recounted how his parents were advised by their doctor to abort him due to his mother's sickness. The faith of this priest's parents made them refuse the advice of their doctor and turned to God to save the life of this priest. God not only saved the life of this priest, but He also healed the sickness of his mother. THE WAY JESUS' PARENTS HELPED IN SAVING THE LIFE OF JESUS IS THE SAME WAY THE PARENTS OF THIS PRIEST HELPED IN SAVING THE LIFE OF THE PRIEST. For God's plan and our mission on earth to be fulfilled and carried out, we must work with God or cooperate with Him. Let us look at the prophecy of Jesus' mission and God the Father's plan for Him. Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading today, prophesied that a shoot, Jesus, will be Jesse's offspring and it happened as prophesied. The Prophet pointed out that Jesus would be filled with the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. Jesus manifested these qualities during His public ministry. Also, the Prophet said that Jesus will not judge by appearance nor by hearsay shall He make decisions. Remember the adulterous woman who was brought to Jesus to condemn. Jesus did not make any decision based on what the accusers of this woman said. Jesus even commanded us not to judge because we judge or condemn people based on appearance and on what we heard. Such judgment or condemnation may be faulty. JESUS' ADVENT AND MISSION WERE FORETOLD BEFORE HIS BIRTH. For a better reception of Jesus' mission, God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for Jesus' coming. John the Baptist kicked off his mission by telling people, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand". This is a call to move in a positive direction or to think differently most especially as God thinks. The period of Advent is a time to make some changes in our lives in those areas we are not living up to God's expectations most especially in anticipation of Christmas. "It takes willingness and effort to see how we need to change, repent, or reform but that is where it has to start" (Fr. Jerry). FOR ONE TO GO THROUGH THE PATH OF REPENTANCE THE PERSON MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT HE OR SHE IS NOT PERFECT. When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he called them a "brood of vipers" and asked them who warned them to flee from the coming wrath. "The brood of vipers represent the self-satisfied, the ones who believe that they are good enough or better than others and see no reason to change or grow" (Fr. Jerry). I cherish the humility and sincerity

of these Pharisees and Sadducees who wanted salvation. These Pharisees and Sadducees were among those who benefitted from the ministry of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel reading today, John pointed out that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. LET US KEEP ASKING JESUS CHRIST TO BAPTIZE US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit helps us to be humble, acknowledge our sinfulness or limitedness, and to seek forgiveness or help from God. We shall benefit a lot from Jesus Christ if we allow the Holy Spirit to direct and help us. MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING CHRISTMAS SO AS TO BENEFIT A LOT FROM THE CELEBRATION OF JESUS' BIRTH, AMEN.