



*Dear Friends of the Missions,*

In the swirl of things to do, a desire is there: to do the good God wants, to not do the good God does not want. I want to be in the place God wants me to be. But the question arises: Do I really need to do this or that? Or more precisely, how do I know which good thing to do? The right place to be? There is a criterion to help: Is it really love? Does it build communion with God and with others? Is what I am doing and where I am right now 'rooted and grounded' in love (Eph 3:17)?

St. Augustine tells us as much: *"Once for all, then, a brief precept is given to you: Love, and do what you want. If you are silent, be silent with love; if you cry out, cry out with love; if you chastise, chastise with love; if you spare, spare with love. The root of love must be within; nothing but good can come forth from this root."* To love and to serve out of love as Jesus did.

When the great Japanese Christian Kagawa first heard about the life of Jesus, he cried out, *"O God, make me like your Christ!"*

To be more like Christ he left a comfortable home and went to live in the slums of Tokyo. There he shared himself and his possessions with whoever needed help.

They say that once he gave away all his clothing. He was left standing in only a tattered kimono. On another occasion, even though deathly sick, he continued to preach to people in a rain, repeating over and over: *“God is love! God is love! Where love is, there is God.”*

William Barclay gives us an insight into the heart and mind of Kagawa when he quotes the great man as saying: *“God dwells among the lowliest of men and women... God is there with beggars. God is among the sick., God stands with the unemployed. Therefore, let those who would meet God visit the prison cell before going to the temple. Before going to church let them visit the hospital. Before reading their Bible let them help the beggar...”*

Mission Sunday speaks of reaching out to the needy and those brothers and sisters who don't know the Lord Jesus...

All Saints Day reminds us of reaching out... so to journey together on the path to holiness...

Christmas has been showing us for over two thousand years how God reached out to us... and how we can reach out to others *“to make of the world one family,”* God's dream.

May the New Year be full of blessings, peace, and harmony to overcome so much division, hatred and selfishness we witness in our world... beginning in our homes and communities.

With deep gratitude, let us keep each other in prayer,

*Fr. Mark and the Xaverian Missionaries*