

## HOMILY HINTS

### OCTOBER 5: THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

- Imagine a scenario when you have helped someone, when you have gone out of your way to be of assistance and you do not even hear a word of gratitude from them. What is worse is when you hear that these persons have actually spoken ill about you or even cause you harm. It leaves you frustrated and you wouldn't even want to venture to be of help and assistance again.
- The first reading and the Gospel of today reflect ingratitude, and Matthew seems to be presenting a very gory picture of such an eventuality.
- The history of the people of the Bible has been a record of ingratitude and infidelity. They have never been satisfied with their blessings. Even when God helped them in their time of difficulty in Egypt, through Moses, they showed ingratitude by reverting to the other gods.
- This ingratitude continued even in their rejection of Jesus, God's only Son, sent into the world to suffer and die for the people. Even Jesus who went around doing good experienced opposition, ridicule and even ingratitude from the people he helped. We know that no one lifted a finger or raised a voice when he was condemned, even his own disciples.
- We find that Our Lord was always grateful to God, His Father. In fact every prayer of Jesus began with praise. Jesus himself praised the people around him for the faith they exhibited. When one leper returned to thank Jesus he was praised. Whenever Jesus broke bread, he said a prayer of blessing. At the miracle of the feeding of 5000 persons, at the Last Supper, at the end of the journey to Emmaus.
- The Eucharist is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. There are many things we have to be grateful to God for and this gratitude is reflected even in our worship. In the same way we are called to develop this Eucharistic attitude of gratitude in our relationships with people around us. A word of appreciation, of encouragement or praise goes a long way in creating an ambience of goodwill and peace. As St. Paul tells us in today's second reading when our minds and actions are filled with love, honour, virtue and praise then the God of peace resides in our hearts, in our relationships and in our world.
- Go ahead then, and be thankful. Appreciate the Lord's goodness and be generous in your praise!