

God's Guard

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Two years before my ordination, I landed in the hospital with the possibility of my left hand being amputated due to an accident I met with. A few Vincentian priests had been keeping vigil day in and day out forgoing their sleep as I lay in excruciating pain after undergoing a number of surgeries. Their loving care and merciful approach gave me spiritual strength and courage. They were the guards of life sent by God in order to provide healing and comfort to my wounded life.

Only when we realize that Jesus has been the guard to our life that all the contemplation about Jesus becomes an amazing experience and an inspiration to our life. He had led all the lives that came to him to the fullness of life as well as to the green pastures. Not a few are the sinners and the sick who have experienced his healing touch through his merciful word as well as his comforting presence. This is made clear in his own merciful verse. "While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me." (Jn. 17:12). He had the power and authority over every one in this world. 'It was not to destroy them or to impose his authority over them but to love them, to give them life and to reach them to eternal life because you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.'" (Jn 17:2). This verse indicates

clearly that the authority given to us over others should not lead to dictatorship. We are the guards appointed by God to protect others and to facilitate their growth.

But the thoughts of selfishness and envy may sometimes prompt us to lead a life of indulgence even by shattering others' dreams and destroying our fellow beings. We still can see people in the society with the mind of Cain who eliminated his own brother due to selfishness and envy. 'Cain' in an individual will die only when he considers his fellow beings and subordinates as his own blood, his own brothers and sisters. If the innocent blood of Abel is still crying out in our families and society, it is because they do not receive protection. The reason for that cry is that there is no one to guard their lives; this cry signifies the agony of separation from one's own blood, who are supposed to live together. Where do the children show today any willingness to protect and guard the lives of their parents? Besides, it has become very common for mothers themselves to massacre their own babies who are formed in the womb - the very mothers who are expected to guard and protect them!

We too must imbibe the spirituality of St. Joseph who did a lot of sacrifice to be the guard of Jesus and Mary. The example set by Jesus should be an inspiration to us so that besides guarding our own family members, we guard and protect all those whom we meet in our lives thereby leading them to the fullness of life. This is possible only for those who realize that we are of one blood in Jesus. The good samaritan is a reflection of Jesus because, he bandaged the wounds of the person who was attacked and left half dead by the thieves, took him to the nearest inn and guarded his life . Let us pray so that we are

transformed into people who guard the lives around us and are the guardian angels of the living.