**32nd Sunday ©** November 6th, 2022

In 72 AD, St. Thomas the Apostle asked by the pagans not to preach the gospel in India and requested him to embrace their own religion but St. Thomas refused of their request and started preaching the gospel and converting so many people in India. They got angry on St. Thomas and killed him. St. Thomas was not afraid of death because he knew that there is life after death. He experienced the resurrection of Christ in his life. Therefore, he believed it is better to be faithful to God and practice his faith in his life than to commit sin against God. He chose to die rather to sin.

Even in our life lives we had seen so many people believed that there is life after death. Therefore, they were ready to suffered, died and glorify God in their lives.

In the gospel we see some people did not believe life after death like Sadducees. Before knowing the question the Sadducees made, let us know, who Sadducees are? Sadducees were wealthy and often belonged to the governing class. They did not believe in miracles or in the existence of the angel or even in life after death. They believed only the Torah the first five books of the Bible. They rejected the prophetic or the wisdom books of the old testaments as a sect, they were opposed to the beliefs and practices of the Pharisees. That is why, they asked question to Jesus. A woman who married to seven brothers successively and all had died without raising an offspring, at the resurrection, whose wife will this woman be? Will she be the wife of the first husband or the last one, or the one she loved most or the one with whom she lived the longest?

Actually, the Sadducees, intending to ridicule the belief in the resurrection of the dead, wanted to know what Jesus thought about it. Jesus proved to them that there is life after death from the torah, which they believed. He quoted passage from the book of exodus where God appeared to Moses on mount Horeb, in the Burning bush. (Ex: 3:6) and identified himself the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. When God spoke to Moses, He said, I am the God of Abraham. He did not say that he was or He had been but I am the God of Abraham. God is God of the living and not of the dead. If Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still alive then there is life after death. All our dear departed ones are in the hands of God; they are living persons, living with God.

As we heard from the book of Maccabees, the faith of the mother, who lost her seven sons as martyrs, affirms very firmly that there is life after death. After witnessing the death of her six sons, she said to her seventh son, accept death so that in God ‘s mercy, I may get you back again along with your brothers. (2Mac 7:29). Prophet Daniel said, many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting contempt (Dan 12:2).

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, the life is blessed when lived well. It is a gift to be used every day For what makes life precious and worth living is not the years we live but the deeds we do, He will lead us to eternal life if we put our whole trust in Him.

Death is the door to everlasting life. Birth and death are realities of earthly life. In heaven no one dies, no earthly criteria are valid there. In heaven we will be God ‘s people and we will live with Him in eternal glory. In the life after death, all shall live life the angels in heavens. God shall transform our bodies after our death from what is perishable into that which is imperishable. (1cor 15; 42-44)

The greatest proof Jesus gave for the life after death is His own resurrection. My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ all who believes in Jesus and confessed His name above every other name shall receive eternal life. In this Eucharist celebration let us thank the living God. The God of the living is present in our midst in the form of body and blood.