

## **MAHBER MEN'ESEYAT BETECRISTIAN KIDANE MEHRET**

Dear young friends,  
welcome back to this new start of bimonthly meetings at the Kidane Mehret parish.  
We are happy to have you with us in this journey of faith.

Our *Geez Rite Faith Community in Toronto* is celebrating the 10th Anniversary since its establishment in the Archdiocese. Many events have happened during these years especially thanks to the dedication and hard work of its members. Just to mention a few:

The community has found a center of reference in the St. Nicholas of Bari Parish with all its facilities and personnel;

Every Sunday the Liturgy is celebrated in our own language and Rite, thus giving us an identity, a link with the past and the *Community* around the World, and on the other hand also enriching the Church of Toronto with one of the oldest traditions in Christianity;

The message of the Gospel is proclaimed in our language and is meant to refer to our own circumstances;

The spiritual needs of the Geez Rite faithfuls are regularly met through the ministry of a priest and other dedicated people, so that our **sick, elderly** and **disadvantaged** are visited, comforted and have access to the Sacraments of the Church; **the youth** are evangelized and encouraged to assimilate the Canadian values without losing those from their parents' homeland; **families** are shown models that can enrich their homes with love, care and growth; **the youngest generation** are helped in taking the first steps in their Ge'ez Rite background through prayers, songs, bible classes, etc.;

Our Parish offers regular classes of Bible, Spirituality and Basic Christian/Catholic Doctrine, Worship, etc. .

At the same time, the *Geez Rite Faith Community in Toronto* aims at becoming a welcoming group with a social, cultural, academic and recreational center for all those who share its value. We are open and foster **ecumenical encounters and prayer meetings** with Christians of other denominations, our community endorses refugees' and immigration applications; we organize collections for relief and for development projects etc.

And we are not grown yet ..., we are just learning and discovering new paths... We need all the cooperation, help and inventiveness we can get. The youth group is the reason we are doing all this. This is a crucial moment, where the future of our

Community is either being fashioned or dismembered. At your age everybody tries to engage you in your own interests. Often the youth is torn between their obligations with education, family and all other demands: attention and love to one's parents, care of the brothers and sisters, relations, friends, part time job, studies, hobbies... But God also DEMANDS its part, in fact God demands all your time, energy, attention, interest... Oh, God is very demanding... He is not happy with left overs, spare time or spare parts. You either give Him everything, or nothing is enough for Him.

Actually, what God really expects is that He is the reason, the first and last goal of every action, efforts we are striving for. Once that is very clear and well defined, then He lets you do everything you need to do, in fact He motivates every action of yours, inspires you to reach new goals and feels you with the energy you need to accomplish your aspirations. Once He becomes your all, then He takes on Himself your burdens and walks you through them step by step.

Can you really say that God is the first, the last and the only reason of your life? Is he really present in you from morning till late in the night, and from late in the night till early in the next day, every day? You know, you can lie and deceive yourself or other people, but you cannot lie and deceive God... He is more intimate to you than you are to yourself. God is not pleased with words, feelings, desires, wishes, dreams, emotions... He is beyond that. He demands your TIME, your full ATTENTION, he expects DISCIPLINE, CONSISTENCY and your ENERGETIC ACTION...

**TIME for HIM** through prayer, reading the Bible, attending Mass, receiving the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist. He is not pleased with a Mass once in a while, when you feel like going to Church... *Remember He does not want the leftovers or your spare time,*

**TIME for YOURSELF:** you need some interval of time everyday and week when you can look at yourself and assess your journey: are you on track, need some deflections, how are your relations with the family in general and each member of the family, how are your studies coming, anything that needs improvements, change, or some drastic decisions about it? ...

**TIME for your NEIGHBOUR:** it is not a choice, it is a demand: "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you it unto me..." PRIME TIME, ...

**ATTENTION:** "Blessed is the person who does God's action with attention" and, on the contrary, "Cursed is the one who does God's action with negligence..."

**DISCIPLINE:** the rules are fixed by God, not by the individual person... You better play by the rules... It is not up to your understanding, feelings of the moment, disposition of the mind, etc. The crown of victory is for the one who plays according to the rules and wins...

**CONSISTENCY:** Every single day you are of the Lord... Everyday He counts on you. In any situation he expects you to side by Him... Consistency is the most important qualification to be recognized as a young person who has made his choice clear and definitive.

**ENERGETIC:** people often think that to please God is something for the weak, the old, the sick, the lonely, to do. Tell me: forgiving when being wronged is it for the weak? denying yourself, your own very self, the demands of your flesh, of your feelings, of your pride is for the weak? (Springing up from bed in time in order not to be late at Mass or to be of service to a person that is not even going to show any gratitude or to acknowledge your presence is for a weak person to do? If you have not trained yourself when you are strong, you are not going to do it when you are sick, old or lonely...).

Is it difficult to be a good Christian? Not only difficult, but even impossible if you do not do it with God. **BUT WITH GOD**, everything becomes easy. God is on our side, he wants us to be a success story, He is personally engaged in the life of each one of us, so that in a sense our success is His success, and our failure is His failure. **ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO LET HIM LIVE IN US, INSPIRE OUR DECISIONS, OUR ACTIONS AND OUR GOALS. WE NEED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM ALWAYS... .**

**GOD KNOWS OUR STRENGTHS AND OUR WEAKNESSES, OUR HIGHS AND OUR LOWS, HE NEVER ABANDONS US. WE MAY FORGET HIM, WE MAY DISOWN HIM, WE MAY BETRAY HIM, HE NEVER FORGETS US, NEVER BETRAYS US, NEVER ABANDONS US. He is Always FAITHFUL. HE LOVES US AS WE ARE AND ACCOMPANIES US AS WE ARE.**