



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN

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Congratulations to our Lady of Montserrat Parish and the Shrine Committee on this initiative of launching a parish website. It is my hope that this parish website will be a means through which parishioners will remain rooted in Christ and grow into authentic disciples. Authentic disciples are those who imitate the Lord Jesus or as St. Paul tells us they are those who put on the mind that was in Christ Jesus. St. Paul also tells us that Jesus gave up his divinity and became one like us even to the point of servanthood. The people of Galilee after listening to Jesus said of him he speaks with authority and Jesus spoke with authority because his lifestyle validated everything which he said of himself.

How do we become authentic disciples? We become authentic disciples by allowing our lifestyle to validate all that we say. As readers of the bible we discover many challenges that the Lord places before us. So Jesus said of himself 'a student is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.' (Matt. 10:24). Will we allow ourselves to be like Jesus, giving ourselves in service to those who are in need? Do we allow ourselves to be servants? Do we give of our time talent and treasure or do we seek everything for ourselves? Do we do the word? Are we people who look after those on the margins? (Matt. 25) or do we wait to be looked after ourselves? The mark of a servant is availability and the mark of a Christian is the availability for the work of the kingdom and according to St. Matthew, the work of building the kingdom is the removal of everything that dehumanizes others.

May this facility on the World Wide Web reach Catholics of other cultures who share a common belief in a God who loves us all. Let us continue to invoke Mary's intercession.

May she help us to be faithful to God every day, to praise and thank him for he is our strength.

I wish the Shrine Committee of your parish continued success in the task of elevating the Shrine to international status that will be able to attract pilgrims in the near future.

Sincerely yours in Christ
Archbishop Joseph E. Harris