

Fr. General Arturo Sosa, S.J.
Seventh Monday in Ordinary Time
Homily
Jabalpur (India)
February 20, 2017

I am extremely happy to celebrate this Eucharist with you at the beginning of the JCSA here in Jabalpur. We have been desiring, you and I, since October last year to meet in India and here we are. My desire is, first of all, to be with you as a friend in the Lord, as a fellow companion. Secondly, it is my great desire to learn from you about India, the richness of its cultures that form this great nation and the challenges you face to make the Good News of Jesus Christ present in the hearts of its people and cultures.

We just heard Jesus saying to a worried father: *Everything is possible to one who has faith.* Again, we bump into the question of having the audacity of the improbable and about going beyond what seems impossible. This has been a question confronting us from the very beginning of GC 36. We looked to Mary's faith and with her, we said, *I am the handmaid of the Lord; may it be done unto me according to your word.*

Jesus is astonished because he encounters a *faithless generation* that is resigned to a co-existence with evil spirits, even with those of the mute and deaf.

The book of the Ecclesiastes talks about Wisdom. It cautions us to remember that *all wisdom comes from the Lord.* Wisdom is a gift and a temptation. It is a gift when we recognize its origin in God. It becomes a temptation when we are convinced of our own wisdom. Indeed, after a long intellectual formation we may feel that we have built up a store of wisdom. We do not any more feel the need to receive wisdom because we think we are able to create it. The danger is to confuse wisdom with knowledge. We can reach knowledge with our efforts but wisdom comes only through the Holy Spirit.

The disciples try to drive out the mute and deaf spirit from the son of the worried father. Why could they not? Maybe they trusted more in themselves after having seen Jesus do it several times. But their faith was not strong enough... and they were not humble enough to ask Jesus to help their faith as did the worried father of the boy.

Because we are convinced that the only wisdom is LOVE that comes from fully trusting in God and from opening our hearts and minds to the action of the Holy Spirit, we want to ask in this Eucharist the grace to be helped in our weak faith so we can make possible what seems now improbable and impossible.