

Bonded to Jesus Christ: Becoming the Salt of the Earth

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Mifamatotra amin'i Jesoa Kristy: Lasa fanasin'ny tany

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As we remain bonded to the Lord, our lives will naturally reflect His light, and we will become the salt of the earth.

The Savior taught that when we are “called unto [His] everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, [we] are accounted as the salt of the earth.” Salt is made of two elements bonded together. We can't be salt on our own; if we are to be salt of the earth, we must be bonded to the Lord, and that is what I see as I mingle with members of the Church around the world—I see faithful members of the Church bonded to the Lord, committed in their efforts to serve others and be the salt of the earth.

Your unwavering dedication is a shining example. Your service is appreciated and cherished.

Our youth have shown remarkable courage and devotion. They have enthusiastically embraced the work of family history, and their frequent visits to the house of the Lord are a testament to their dedication. Their willingness to devote time and energy to serve missions across the globe reflects a deep and abiding faith. They are not merely participating but leading the way in becoming disciples bonded to Jesus Christ. Their service radiates light and hope, touching countless lives. To you, the youth of the Church, we express our heartfelt thanks for your inspiring service. You are not just the Church's future but its present. And you are indeed the salt of the earth!

Rehefa mitoetra ho mifamatotra amin'ny Tompo isika, dia hahitana taratra ho azy ny fahazavany ny fiainantsika, ary ho lasa fanasin'ny tany isika.

Nampianatra ny Mpamonjy fa rehefa “ant-soina ho amin'ny filazantsara[ny] maharitra mandrakizay [isika] ary manao fanekena amin'ny fanekempihavanana maharitra mandrakizay, dia isaina ho toy ny siran'ny tany [isika].” Vita amin'ny singa roa mifamatotra ny sira. Tsy afaka ny ho sira amin'ny herin'ny tenantsika isika. Raha ho fanasin'ny tany isika, dia tsy maintsy mifato-tra amin'ny Tompo, ary izany no hitako rehefa mifangaroharo amin'ireo mpikamban'ny Fiangonana manerana izao tontolo izao aho, mahita mpikambana mahatoky ato amin'ny Fiangonana izay mifamatotra amin'ny Tompo, feno fanoloran-tena amin'ny ezaka ataony mba hanompo ny hafa sy mba ho fanasin'ny tany aho.

Ohatra maha-te hidera ny fanoloran-tenanareo tsy voahozongozona. Ankasitrahana sy lalaina ny fanompoana ataonareo.

Naneho herim-po sy fahafoizan-tena miavaka ny zatovontsika. Nanaiky tamin-kafanam-po ny asa momba ny tantaram-pianakaviana izy ireo, ary ny fitsidihana matetika ataon'izy ireo any amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo dia vavolombelon'ny fanoloran-tenany. Ny fahavononan'izy ireo hanokana fotoana sy hery hanao asa fitoriana ny filazantsara maneran-tany dia maneho finoana lalina sy mitoetra. Tsy vitan'ny hoe mandray anjara fotsiny izy ireo fa mitari-dalana amin'ny fahatongavana ho mpianatra mifamatotra amin'i Jesoa Kristy. Manome fitaomam-panahy sy fanantenana mahakasika fiainana tsy hita isa ny fanompoana ataon'izy ireo. Maneho ny fisaoranay avy amin'ny fo ho anareo noho ny fanompoa-

I love the Lord Jesus Christ and feel blessed by the opportunity to serve alongside you in the Lord's Church. Our unity and strength, grounded in our shared faith, reassure us that we are never alone in this journey. Together, we can continue to build the kingdom of God, rooted in service, love, and unwavering faith.

When Jesus Christ taught by the Sea of Galilee, He often used everyday elements familiar to His audience to convey profound spiritual truths. One such element was salt. Jesus declared, "[You] are the salt of the earth," a statement rich in meaning and significance, especially for the people of His time, who understood the multifaceted value of salt.

The ancient craft of salt harvesting in the Algarve, the southern region of my home country of Portugal, dates back thousands of years to the era of the Roman Empire. Remarkably, the methods used by the salt workers, known as *marnotos*, have changed little since then. These dedicated artisans employ traditional techniques, performing their work entirely by hand, maintaining a legacy that has endured through the centuries.

This ancient method harvests what is called "flower of salt." To fully appreciate the intricate process of harvesting the flower of salt, it is essential to understand the environment in which it is produced. The Algarve's coastal salt marshes provide the ideal conditions for salt production. Seawater is channeled into shallow ponds, known as salt pans, where it is left to evaporate under the intense sun. As the water evaporates, the flower of salt forms delicate crystals on the surface of the salt pans. These crystals are incredibly pure and have a unique, crisp texture. The *marnotos* carefully skim the crystals from the water's surface using specialized tools, a process that requires great skill and precision. In Portugal,

na avy amin'ny fanentanana-panahy ataonareo izahay ry zatovon'ny Fiangonana. Tsy hoavin'ny Fiangonana fotsiny ianareo fa mitondra akony amin'ny Fiangonana amin'izao fotoana izao koa. Ary dia tena fanasin'ny tany tokoa ianareo!

Tiako i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjy ary mahatsapa ho voatahy aho noho ny fahafahana manompo eo anilanareo ao amin'ny Fiangonan'ny Tompo. Ny firaisan-kina sy ny tanjatsika, izay miorina tsara ao amin'ny finoana iombonantsika, dia manome toky antsika fa tsy irery na oviana na oviana isika amin'ity dia ity. Raha miaraka isika dia afaka manohy manorina ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra izay miorim-paka amin'ny fanompoana, ny fitiavana, ary ny finoana tsy voahozongozona.

Rehefa nampianatra teo amoron'ny Rano-masin'i Galilia i Jesoa Kristy, dia matetika Izy no nampiasa ireo singa eo amin'ny fiainana andavanandro izay fantatr'ireo mpihaino Azy mba hampitana fahamarinana ara-panahy lalina. Isan'izany singa izany ny sira. Nanambara i Jesoa hoe: "Hianareo no fanasin'ny tany," fehezan-teny iray manana heviny lalina sy manan-danja, indrindra fa ho an'ireo olona tamin'ny androny izay nahatakatra ny lanja marolafy ananan'ny sira.

Ilay fahaiza-manao fahiny tamin'ny fanangonana ny sira vokatry tao Algavre, faritra atsimo ao Portugal izay firenena niaviako, dia efa hatramin'ny an'arivo taona lasa tamin'ny vanim-po toan'ny fanjakan'ny amperora Rômana. Nahagaga fa niova kely hatramin'izay fotoana izay ireo fomba fiasa nampiasain'ireo mpiasa mpamokatra sira izay nantsoina hoemarnotos. Nampiasa haitao nentim-paharazana ireo mpiasa feno fanoloran-tena ireo, izay nanatanteraka manontolo ny asan'izy ireo tamin'ny tanana, ary nihazona lova izay naharitra nandritra ny taonjato maro.

Io fomba fahiny io dia nanangona ilay nantsoina hoe "fleur de sel." Mba hankamamiana tanteraka ilay dingana mananosarotra amin'ny fanangonana fleur de sel, dia ilaina ny mahatakatra ny momba ny tontolo hamokarana izany. Mahafeno ny fepetra tsara indrindra hamokarana sira ireo heniheny eny amin'ny morontsirak'i Algarve. Taritina ho ao amin'ireo dobo marivo, fantatra amin'ny hoe heniheny fanaovan-tsira, ny ranomasina ary avela ao izany mba ho lasa etona eo ambany masoandro mahamay be. Rehefa lasa etona ny rano, dia mamorona kristaly manify eo amin'ny velaran'ny tampon'ireo heniheny fanaovan-tsira ilay fleur de sel. Madio fatratra ireo kristaly ireo ary manana toetra tsy manam-pa-

this fine-quality salt is referred to as “salt cream” because it can be gently skimmed away like cream rising to the top of milk. This delicate salt is cherished for its purity and exceptional flavor, making it a prized ingredient in culinary arts.

Just like themarnotosput forth great effort to ensure they harvest the highest quality of salt, so should we, as the Lord’s covenant people, always do our very best so that our love and example are, as much as possible, a pure reflection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the ancient world, salt was more than just a seasoning—it was a vital preservative and a symbol of purity and covenant. People knew that salt was essential for preserving food and enhancing flavor. They also understood the grave implications of salt losing its saltiness, or savor, by becoming contaminated or diluted.

Like salt can lose its essence, we can also lose our spiritual vitality if our faith in Jesus Christ becomes casual. We may look the same on the outside, but without a strong inner faith, we lose our ability to make a difference in the world and bring out the best in those around us.

So how can we channel our energy and efforts to make a difference and be the change the world needs today? How can we preserve discipleship and continue to be a positive influence?

The words of our dear prophet still echo in my mind: “God wants us to work together and help each other. That is why He sends us to earth in families and organizes us into wards and stakes. That is why He asks us to serve and

haroa sy mikarepoka. Manaisotra amim-pitan-dremana ny kristaly avy eo amin’ny velaran’ny tampon’ny rano amin’ny fampiasana fitaovana manokana nymarnotos, izay dingana mitaky fahaiza-manao sy fitandremana lehibe. Ao Portugal dia antsoina hoe “crème de sel” io sira tena tsara kalitao io satria azo esorina tsimoramora toy ny hero-dronono eo an-tampon’ny ronono izany. Ankamamiana noho ny fahadiovany sy ny tsirony tena miavaka io sira tsara kalitao io, ka mahatonga izany ho laron-tsakafo tena sarobidy amin’ny haitao momba ny fahandroan-tsakafo.

Tahaka ny hanaovan’ireomarnotosezaka lehibe mba hakana antoka fa sira tsara kalitao indrindra no vokatry angonin’izy ireo, dia toy izany koa no ataontsika, amin’ny maha va-hoakan’ny fanekempihavanan’ny Tompo, manao mandrakariva izay tsara indrindra vitantsika mba hahatonga ny fitiavana sy ny ohatra asehontsika ho fanehoana amin’ny fomba madio, araka izay azo atao, an’i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjintsika.

Nihoatra lavitra noho ny fanomezan-tsiro ny sira tamin’ny andro fahiny, fitehirizan-tsakafo tena nilaina sy tandindon’ny fahadiovana sy fanekempihavanana izany. Fantatry ny olona fa nilaina ny sira mba hitehirizana sakafo sy hantsarana tsiron-tsakafo. Takatr’izy ireo ihany koa ny voka-dratsy lehibe ateraky ny fahaverezan’ny hasin’ny sira na ny tsirony rehefa idiran’ny loto na mitsonika.

Tahaka ny mety hamerezan’ny sira ny toetra maha-izy azy, dia mety hamery ny fahavelomantsika ara-panahy ihany koa isika raha lasa toy ny zavatra tsy misy dikany ny finoantsika an’i Jesoa Kristy. Mety hitovy amin’ny teo aloha ihany ny fahitana antsika ety ivelany, saingy raha tsy manana finoana matanjaka ao anaty, dia very ny fahafahantsika manova zavatra eto amin’izao tontolo izao sy ny fahafahantsika mamporisika ireo manodidina antsika hanao izay tsara indrindra vitany.

Koa ahoana ary no ahafahantsika mampifantoka ny tanjatsika sy ny ezaka ataontsika mba hanova zavatra sy ho lasa ilay fiovana ilain’izao tontolo izao ankehitriny? Ahoana no ahafahantsika mihazona ny maha-mpianatra antsika sy mijanona ho fitaomana tsara hatrany?

Mbola manako ato an-tsaiko foana ny tenin’ny mpaminany malalantsika hoe: “Tian’ Andriamanitra hiara-hiasa sy hifanampy isika. Izany no antony nandefasany antsika teto an-tany tao anatina fianakaviana ary nandaminany antsi-

minister to each other. That is why He asks us to live in the world but not be of the world.”

When our lives are filled with purpose and service, we avoid spiritual apathy; on the other hand, when our lives are deprived of divine purpose, meaningful service to others, and sacred opportunities for pondering and reflection, we gradually become suffocated by our own activity and self-interest, risking losing our savor. The antidote to this is to continue to be involved in service—being anxiously engaged in good works and the betterment of ourselves and the society we live in.

My dear brothers and sisters, what a blessing we all have today to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to serve in His Church. Our circumstances may vary, but we all can make a difference.

Remember the marnotos, the salt workers; they use simple tools to harvest the best crystals, the best salt! We too can do simple things that, with consistent efforts in small and meaningful acts, can deepen our discipleship and commitment to Jesus Christ. Here are four simple yet profound ways we can strive to be the salt of the earth:

Keeping the house of the Lord at the center of our devotion. Now that temples are closer than ever before, prioritizing regular worship in the house of the Lord will help us focus on what matters most and keep our lives centered in Christ. In the temple, we find the heart of our faith in Jesus Christ and the soul of our devotion to Him.

Being deliberate in our efforts to strengthen others by living the gospel together. We can strengthen our families through consistent and intentional efforts to bring gospel principles into

ka ho anaty paroasy sy tsatoka. Izany no maha-tonga Azy mangataka antsika mba hifanombo. Izany no mahatonga Azy mangataka antsika mba ho to amin'izao tontolo izao fa tsy naman'izao tontolo izao.”

Rehefa feno tanjona sy fanomboana ny fiainantsika dia misoroka ny tsy fahavitrihana ara-panahy isika. Fa etsy an-kilan'izay, rehefa tsy misy tanjona masina sy asa fanomboana manan-danja atao amin'ny hafa ary fahafahana masina hisaintsainana sy hieritreretana ny fiainantsika, dia lasa seopotra tsikelikely isika noho ny zavatra ataontsika sy ny fijerena ny tombontsoantsika manokana, ka mety hamery ny tsiron-tsika. Ny fanefitr'izany dia ny manohy mandray anjara amin'ny asa fanomboana, mazoto mirot-saka amin'ny tanjona tsara sy ny fanatsarana ny tenantsika sy ny fiarahamonina honenantsika.

Ry rahalahy sy anabavy malalako, manana fitahiana lehibe tokoa isika ankehitriny amin'ny maha-mpikambana antsika ato amin'ny Fiangonany Jesoa Kristy sy ny fananantsika fahafahana hanombo ato amin'ny Fiangonany. Mety tsy hitovy ny toe-javatra misy antsika, kanefa afaka manova zavatra avokoa isika rehetra.

Tsarovy ireo marnotos, ireo mpiasa mpamokatra sira; mampiasa fitaovana tsotra izy ireo hanangonana ny kristaly tsara indrindra, ny sira tsara indrindra! Isika koa dia afaka manao zavatra tsotra izay afaka mampitombo lalina ny maha-mpianatra antsika sy ny fanolorantenantsika amin'ny Jesoa Kristy rehefa anaovana ezaka tsy tapaka amin'ireo asa kely sy manan-danja. Ireto misy fomba efatra tsotra kanefa lalina izay azon-tsika anaovana ezaka mba ho fanasin'ny tany:

Fihazonana ny tranon'ny Tompo ho zavatra ifantohan'ny fanoloran-tenantsika. Amin'izao fotoana izay efa maha-akaiky kokoa ny tempoly izao raha oharina amin'ny taloha, dia hanampy antsika hifantoka amin'izay manan-danja indrindra sy hanao izay hifantohan'ny fiainantsika hatrany amin'ny Kristy ny fanaovana ho laharan-pahamehana ny fitsaohana tsy tapaka any amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo. Azontsika any amin'ny tempoly ny ampahany manan-danja indrindra amin'ny finoantsika an'ny Jesoa Kristy sy ny tena maha-manan-danja ny fanolorantsika tena ho Azy.

Ny fanaovantsika ezaka amin'ny nahim-po mba hampatanjaka ny hafa amin'ny alalan'ny fiarahana miaina ny filazantsara. Afaka mampatanjaka ny fianakaviansika isika amin'ny alalan'ny

our lives and to our homes.

Being willing to accept a calling and serving in the Church. Service in our local congregations allows us to support one another and grow together. While serving is not always convenient, it is always rewarding.

And finally, using digital communication tools with purpose. Today, digital communication tools allow us to connect as never before. Like most of you, I use these tools to connect with brothers and sisters in the Church and with my family and friends. As I connect with them, I feel closer to them; we can minister to each other in times of need when we cannot be physically present. These tools are undoubtedly a blessing, yet these very same tools can drag us away from the depth of meaningful interactions and eventually cause us to be pulled into habits that waste our time in less purposeful activities. Striving to be the salt of the earth includes so much more than an endless scrolling of reels on a six-inch (15 cm) screen.

As we keep the house of the Lord central in our lives, intentionally strengthen others by living the gospel, accept callings to serve, and use digital tools with purpose, we can preserve our spiritual vitality. Just as salt in its purest form has the power to enhance and preserve, so too does our faith in Jesus Christ when it is nourished and protected by our dedication to Christlike service and love.

As we remain bonded to the Lord, our lives will naturally reflect His light, and we will become the salt of the earth. In this effort, we not only enrich our lives but also strengthen our families and our communities. May we strive to maintain this bond with the Lord, never lose our savor, and be the small, little crystal of salt that

ezaka tsy tapaka sy an-tsitrapo mba hitondra ireo fitsipiky ny filazantsara eo amin'ny fiainantsika sy ao an-tokantranontsika.

Fahavononana hanaiky antso sy hanompo ato amin'ny Fiangonana. Mamela antsika hi-fanampy sy hiara-hivoatra ny fanompoana ao amin'ny rantsana misy antsika eo an-toerana. Na dia tsy mety amintsika foana aza ny fanompoana, dia mitondra valisoa hatrany izany.

Ary farany, ny fampiasana ireo fitaovan-tserasera nomerika omban'ny tanjona manokana. Ankehitriny dia mamela antsika hifandray amin'ny fomba tsy mbola nisy toy izany ireo fitaovan-tserasera nomerika. Tahaka ny anka-marohanareo, dia mampiasa ireo fitaovana ireo aho mba hifandraisana amin'ireo rahalahy sy anabavy ato am-piangonana sy amin'ny fianakaviana ary ny namana. Rehefa mifandray amin'izy ireo aho dia mahatsapa ho akaiky kokoa azy ireo; afaka mifanompo isika amin'ny fotoan-tsarotra izay tsy ahafahantsika ho tonga mivantana. Tsy isalasalana fa fitahiana ireo fitaovana ireo, kanefa ireo fitaovana ireo ihany dia afaka hitarika antsika hiala amin'ny halalin'ny fifaneraserana manan-danja ary amin'ny farany dia hahatonga antsika ho voasariky ny fahazarana izay mandany ny fotoanantsika amin'ny hetsika tsy dia misy dikany loatra. Betsaka lavitra noho ny fitetezana horonan-tsary fohy tsy misy fiafarany ao amin'ny efijery dimy ambin'ny folo santimetatra ny zavatra tafiditra ao anatin'ny fiezahana ho fanasin'ny tany.

Rehefa mihazona ny tranon'ny Tompo ho zavatra ifantohan'ny fiainantsika isika, mampatanjaka ny hafa amin'ny nahim-po amin'ny alalan'ny fiainana ny filazantsara, manaiky antso mba hanompo, ary mampiasa ireo fitaovana nomerika omban'ny fananana tanjona, dia afaka mihazona ny fahavelomantsika ara-panahy isika. Tahaka ny fananan'ny sira hery hanatsara sy hitahiry amin'ny toetrany madio indrindra, dia tahaka izany koa ny finoantsika an'i Jesoa Kristy rehefa voakolokolo sy voaro amin'ny alalan'ny fanolorantsika tena hanao asa fanompoana sy hanana fitiavana tahaka ny an'i Kristy.

Rehefa mitoetra ho mifamatotra amin'ny Tompo isika, dia hahitana taratra ho azy ny fahazavany ny fiainantsika, ary ho lasa fanasin'ny tany isika. Ao anatin'izany ezaka izany isika dia tsy vitan'ny hoe manatsara fotsiny ny fiainantsika fa mampatanjaka ihany koa ny fianakaviansika sy ny fiarahamonina misy antsika. Enga anie

the Lord wants us to be. In the name of Jesus
Christ, amen.

isika mba hiezaka hihazona izany fifamatorana
amin'ny Tompo izany, ka tsy hanary ny tsiron-
tsika, ka ho ilay sira kristaly kely izay tian'ny
Tompo hahatongavantsika. Amin'ny anaran'i
Jesoa Kristy, amena.