



St John Gabriel Perboyre (1802-1840) was born in Montgesty in southern France into a family which gave three missionaries of St. Vincent and two Daughters of Charity to the Church. As a missionary he went to China where he was martyred. He was strangled to death on a cross at Wuchang. His body was retrieved and buried in the mission cemetery by a catechist.

First Reading: (1 Tim 1:15-17) The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ps 112:1-7

R./ May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore.

Gospel: (Lk 6:43-49) Jesus said to his disciples, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are

grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Every one who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation upon rock; and when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But he who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

REFLECTION

The ultimate reason for incarnation undoubtedly is the salvation of sinners. Jesus is very clear when he says, "I came not to call the righteous, but the sinners." The moment we accept ourselves as sinners needing God's patient acceptance, the derailed human lives get back on track. It is the sheer magnanimity and patience of God our Father that makes us to bear fruits in our lives. But the question that we need to ask is what is the type of fruit I bear? Is it good or is it bad? As the quality of any tree is measured in terms of the fruit it produces, **the quality of our life is measured based on the correspondence of our words and actions with the values of the Gospel.** Therefore, let our words and actions make known the divine spark kindled in us at the time of our baptism. Let us respond to God's invitation to be known by the fruit we produce.