

St Thomas of Villanova (1488-1555) is a Spanish Augustinian monk and archbishop who lived a life of austerity in order to provide for the spiritual and material needs of his people. He was born in Fuentellana, Spain. His father was a miller who regularly distributed food and provisions to the poor, as did his mother.



First Reading: (Ezra 9:5-9) At the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garments and my mantle rent, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God, saying: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to thee, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt; and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as at this day. But now for a brief moment favour has been shown by the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant, and to give us a secure hold within his holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage. For we are bondmen; yet our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has extended to us his steadfast love

before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.

Tob 13:2, 4, 6-8

R./ Blessed be God! He lives for ever.

Gospel: (Lk 9:1-6) Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

REFLECTION

Prophet Ezra as he confesses his sin and the iniquity of his people expresses his complete trust in the Lord. The experience of the trust begins when one realizes that he/she is called and sent by the Lord in spite of one's unworthiness. But God makes worthy whom he has called. The disciples who were called by the Lord placed their trust in the Lord and not in the material things. **Let us become missionaries appreciating the greatness of our call and manifest the mercy of God by our very lives.** In a world broken by various factors, the acceptance and manifestation of God's mercy and its manifestation through our lives will be the sign of missionary activity.