

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER DANAHA**  
**(JANUARY 28TH 2007)**

Dearly beloved:

**J**esus and his disciples returned to Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, about 20 miles from Capernaum. The Nazarenes did not trust Jesus because of His background. The people said, we know Jesus' family, so how did a simple carpenter like Him become so smart and powerful? They were jealous and could not accept Jesus' power and authority. Unfortunately, for the Nazarenes, their distrust prevented Jesus from working the miracles that He performed elsewhere. Jesus could have healed sick Nazarenes. Jesus said, a prophet or a servant of God could not receive honour among his own people. We saw this to be true in the way the Nazarenes treated Jesus.

**M**ost of the time, we are also critical of others, especially those close to us. The most severe critics are often people very familiar to us, a member of our family, a relative or neighbor we deal with on a regular basis. Jesus faced a severe test when He returned to His hometown. The people of Nazareth took offense at Him and refused to listen to what He had to say. They despised Him because of His family background. They did not recognize or realize that He had come from God. Jesus could not do any of His mighty works there because of they did not believe. If a group of people has made up its mind not to believe and to refuse to understand, then its closed mind will see no other point of view.

**“**Lord Jesus Christ, You are the fulfillment of all our hopes and desires. Your spirit brings us grace, truth, life and freedom. Fill us with the joy of the gospel and inflame our hearts with love”.

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, January 28th, 2007.**  
**(Fourth Sunday after the Baptism of Our Lord)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

<b>Genesis</b>	-	<b>2: 4-17</b>
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	-	<b>18: 9-16</b>
<b>Isaiah</b>	-	<b>40: 27-31</b>

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	<b>Acts</b>	-	<b>18: 1-4, 20: 33-35</b>
Epistles of St. Paul:	<b>I Corinthians</b>	-	<b>12: 12-27</b>
	<b>I Thessalonians</b>	-	<b>4: 9-12</b>
	<b>II Thessalonians</b>	-	<b>3: 6-15</b>
Holy Gospel:	<b>St. Mark</b>	-	<b>6: 1-6</b>

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex