

## HOODHOSH- EETHO (DEDICATION) SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 12TH 2006)

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, November 12th is Hoodhosh Eetho or Dedication Sunday. Hoodhosh means “to consecrate” and Eetho means “church”. This feast is also known as the “Feast of Lights”. Last Sunday the church was sanctified or purified. Now, the rite of dedicating the church after sanctifying it is to be performed. A building becomes church only after it undergoes the process of sanctification and dedication. In the same way, we should dedicate our life to Christ. We should offer or dedicate ourselves to Him so that our goodness will multiply, like the five loaves and two fish, which, having been fed to the multitude, still had plenty left over. When we are filled with love, dedication becomes real. A decorated and beautifully painted and structured building does not necessarily mean that it is the house of God. Continuous worship and communion with God make it God's temple. Mary Magdalene, Mother Teresa, Father Damian, Parumala Thirumeni, all dedicated their lives to God. Christ's offering of Himself purges the conscience and allows it to gain entrance into the heavenly sanctuary. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus and for His glory. The love of Christ should compel us to completely dedicate ourselves to Him.

In today's Holy Gospel reading is also about the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. Jesus used this occasion to declare that He is the true light of the world. Jesus also speaks of the tremendous trust He has in God His Father and the tremendous trust we ought to have in Him, our God shepherd. Jesus also promises the security of peace and protection from evil and the greatest harm that could befall us – eternal destruction. The Lord does not spare us from all trouble. In this life, we will experience pain, suffering, sickness and death. But through these, the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety in His everlasting home. We can confidently follow the Lord wherever He leads, trusting that nothing can keep us from God if we trust in Him.

“Lord Jesus, you are the Good shepherd. In You we place all our hope and we entrust ourselves to You completely.”

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

**Bible readings for Sunday, November 12th 2006.**

**(Hoodhosh-Eetho Sunday)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

|                |   |                 |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Exodus</b>  | - | <b>33: 7-11</b> |
| <b>I Kings</b> | - | <b>8: 22-40</b> |
| <b>Isaiah</b>  | - | <b>55: 1-13</b> |

**Holy Qurbana**

|                       |                 |   |                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| General Epistles:     | <b>Acts</b>     | - | <b>7: 44-53</b>  |
| Epistles of St. Paul: | <b>Hebrews</b>  | - | <b>9: 1-14</b>   |
| Holy Gospel:          | <b>St. John</b> | - | <b>10: 22-38</b> |

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex