

Today is the Sunday of Saint Thomas, the Gospel of John 20:19-31. We hear of Christ Jesus appearing to all of the disciples again, but this time, He breathed on them and told them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel also recalls how Saint Thomas, who wanted to see for himself that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, believed instantly once he felt both His hands and side exclaiming boldly, “My Lord and My God!”

Dearest ones, Christ is Risen! This is the Good News! So what do we do now? Should we not share it with all? Within our Church we have many great missionaries: Saint Cyril and Methodios, Saint Innocent of Alaska, and Saint Nicholas of Japan to name a few. Many missionaries have traveled around the world to different countries learning languages, cultures, and varying societies so that they can spread this Good News to all as Christ commissioned.

Mother Gavrilia, of blessed memory, a 20th century monastic too was a missionary spreading the Good News. In her life and words she teaches all a great lesson on the universal language of humanity. She said that there are five languages she knew: smile, tears, touch, prayer, and love. She said with these five languages, we can travel the whole earth loving everyone as ourselves without concern of religion or race.

Let us take this example of Mother Gavrilia, and spread the Good News that Christ is risen, truly He is risen throughout our lives, every day—every moment, so that all may learn of Him who out of love for us, became man, was crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day granting us eternal life; and to which all honor and glory are due, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.