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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Remain In My Love

'Love one another as I have loved you.' The simplest of commands, but the hardest to follow.

This passage is taken from Jesus' Priestly Prayer from the Gospel of John, after the Last Supper and immediately before his Passion. Before Jesus leaves them, he gives his disciples his last teachings and prays for them. He reminds them to love each other just as he has loved them.

All of us have ideals for the church and even people who are not Christian hold the church and its members to very high ideals. They want to see how our faith will bear fruit, how we treat, respect and welcome other people and our fellow Christians. But it is not easy. Perhaps in the Catholic Church, we have struggled to build community in our large and impersonal churches. Often the early Church is put forward as an example and model for us to follow. But was it really that perfect?

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the church faces one of its first crises. The question is - should non-Jews be admitted into baptism. The first Christians were Jewish and they still saw themselves as part of the Jewish community, with their faith in Christ being an addition to that. They believed that in order to become Christian, a Gentile had to be circumcised first as a Jew.

Peter, being a Jew, also held this belief. Acts shows us the social and cultural gulf between Jews and Gentiles and how difficult it was Jewish-Christians to relate to non-Jews.

But a sea change is on the way. A Roman centurion named Cornelius - a God-fearing, prayerful and generous man - has a dream asking him to summon Peter. At first, Peter is uneasy about entering the house of a "pagan" but he goes. Peter shares the story of Jesus with Cornelius and all his household and they receive the Holy Spirit. The others are astounded that God's Holy Spirit is for Gentiles also and their eyes are opened. God's grace, God's salvation, God's love is for all. At once, Peter orders that they be baptised.

Community is challenging but the early Church gives us just one example of how we are invited to love one another. In the globalised world of today, our Christian community is multi-cultural and international. How do we reconcile the differences between our nationalities, cultures and languages? Are we open to welcome each other's gifts and cultures and how they can enrich our community? In the Second Reading, John says: *'God sent his Son into the world so that we might have life through him.'* The church of the Acts of the Apostles came to learn what Jesus' words truly meant. We are called to share the love and salvation of God with everyone.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR



6th Sunday of Easter
 Year B
 6 May 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 6 May	Ac 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17 The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.
Mon, 7 May	Ac 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4 The Lord takes delight in his people.
Tue, 8 May	Ac 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11 You stretch out your hand and save me, O Lord.
Wed, 9 May	Ac 17:15,22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15 Your glory fills all heaven and earth.
Thu, 10 May The Ascension Of The Lord	Ac 1:1-11; Eph 4:1-13; Mk 16:15-20 God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Fri, 11 May	Ac 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23 God is king of all the earth.
Sat, 12 May SS. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs St. Pancras, Martyr	Ac 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28 God is king of all the earth.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes



Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30pm evening Mass from Monday to Friday in the month of May.

Ascension Of The Lord

The Vigil Mass will be celebrated at **7pm** on Wednesday 9th May.

The Mass times will be at 6.30am, 12.15pm and **7pm** on Thursday 10th May.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 13th May at 12 noon.

World Communications Sunday

There will be a second collection at Masses on 12th and 13th May for Archdiocese's Media Apostolate.

Our Lady of Ransom

St. Alphonsus laid down his sword at the feet of Our Lady of Ransom and replaced it with the Rosary.



Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles on Sundays and Days of Obligations. Thank you.

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.