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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve

Today's gospel reading from Mark focuses on servant leadership.

Servant leadership is a philosophy that has received much attention but few leaders actually practise it. In our competitive world, most leaders would rather hold on to power and control to manage their own interests. The teaching of Jesus go against the need for self-preservation and interest.

But our servant leader, Jesus calls us to be different, to be extraordinary as He is. He said:

" ... anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In a nutshell, this is the life and mission of Jesus Christ. We, who are His disciples are also tasked with a mission - to serve and make a difference in the lives of others.

As I reflect on my own life, I could see that the areas of my life that I have been guided to take charge. Taking charge means to serve. Through serving my family, I have become a stronger and more resilient person. Having experienced personal challenges, I can begin to see other perspectives and guide others by the spirit instead of the law.

I learnt to weigh the needs of different people. Being a servant leader may also mean making unpopular decisions.

I understand that it is not possible to just wish that things will just go our way all the time. But we can continue to pray and never let go of our faith. The second reading from the Book of Hebrews is clear:

"Let us be confident, then in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help."

Jesus knows that servant leadership is hard work. There are times when I feel down. I question why I would need to be in that particular situation. Would I have been better off if I had led a different life? Actually, I will never know. But instead of complaining, I learnt to see the grace that He had given me. Someone told me never to doubt and believe that I am put in the right place and right time and given the right amount of resources. He had put me there to make a difference in another person's life. Accepting this with humility is grace and mercy multiplied.

As disciples, we continue to emulate our Master in our own earthly mission - to serve.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



29th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 21st October 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 21 October	Is 53:10-11; Hebr 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.
Mon, 22 October St. John Paull II, Pope	Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21 He made us, we belong to him.
Tue, 23 October St. John of Capestrano, Priest	Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38 The Lord speaks peace to his people.
Wed, 24 October St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop	Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Thu, 25 October	Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53 The Lord fills the earth with his love.
Fri, 26 October	Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Sat, 27 October	Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

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

22nd October, Feast of St. John Paul II

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born in the Polish town of Wadowice. He was the youngest of three children born to Karol Wojtyla and Emilia Kaczorowska. Emilia died in the childbirth in 1929 when Wojtyla was eight years old. His elder sister Olga had died before his birth but he was close to his brother Edmund, who was 13 years his senior. He was deeply affected when his brother died from scarlet fever.

In October 1942, he decided to knock on the door of the Bishop's Palace in Krakow and asked to study for the priesthood. He was ordained as a priest on 1 November 1946.

Pope John Paul II served as Pope from 1978 to 2005.



Cardinal Wojtyla was elected on the third day of the conclave and adopted his predecessor's name in tribute to him. John Paul II is recognised as helping to end Communist rule in his native Poland and eventually all of Europe.

He was one of the most travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate. As part of his special emphasis on the universal call to holiness, he beatified 1340 people and canonised 483 saints.

John Paul II was the second longest serving pope in modern history after Pope Pius IX, who served for nearly 32 years from 1846 to 1878. John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since the Dutch Pope Adrian VI, who served from 1522 to 1523.

John Paul II's cause for canonisation commenced in 2005 one month after his death with the traditional five-year waiting period waived. On 19 December 2009, he was proclaimed Venerable by his Successor Pope Benedict XVI and was beatified on 1 May 2011 and was canonised on 27 April 2014. It is traditional to celebrate saints' feast days on the anniversary of their deaths, but that of John Paul II (22 October) is celebrated on the anniversary of his papal inauguration.

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas will begin on Saturday, 27th October 2018. The Theme for this special Novena is: "His Name shall be...." All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

27 Oct : Jesus (Introduction)

3 Nov : Son of David

10 Nov : Son of the Most High

17 Nov : Mighty God

24 Nov : The Christ

1 Dec : Wonderful Counselor

8 Dec : Prince of Peace

15 Dec : Saviour

22 Dec : Immanuel

Solemnity of All Saints' Day

Please take note of the Mass Times.

Wednesday, 31st October (Vigil Mass) - 7pm

Thursday, 1st November - 6.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be Tagalog Mass on 28th October at 12 noon.

Recruitment for Choirs

1). The St. John Neumann Choir (8am, Sunday) is recruiting projectionists to man the AV system at masses.

For those interested or in need of more details, please call Susan at 9664 7900.

2). The St. Alphonsus Choir (10am, Sunday) is recruiting the following: Choir (Singers), Projectionists, Violinist, Cellist and Flautist.

For those interested, please approach the Church Reception for the recruitment leaflet.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Praying The Rosary

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