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The Church: The Field Hospital

Religions often begin with founders who have a radical vision. However, as the founders die, these religions inevitably develop into institutions with doctrines, laws, and structures. These are not necessarily bad, in fact, they are necessary. The group needs to know and understand what they believe, there needs to be order in worship and somebody needs to be in charge. However, structures can soon become a double-edged sword. These very rules that were meant to protect what is important to the community can now begin to exclude people who do not measure up to its standards.

This was the dynamic that Jesus was so critical of in his ministry. The Pharisees – from the Aramaic work parushi, meaning “set apart” – were good people. They were pious and observant Jews who were simply trying to live the faith as best as they could by observing every single detail of the Law. However, they imposed these same expectations upon others who could not meet those standards. Often, they were widows, the poor and others on the margins of society. These people now found themselves excluded from the community and Jesus was critical of the Scribes and Pharisees: “They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders.”

Jesus had a different idea of what a religious community should be. Pope Francis has described Jesus’ vision of the Church as the Field Hospital.

The Church is not an exclusive club for the holy-moley and perfect; the Church is a hospital for the broken, the imperfect, the sick, the marginalized and the abandoned. That was Jesus’ vision for the Church and that is the Church’s mission today.

The prophet Malachi lived about fifty years after the Temple had been rebuilt and the Israelites were still struggling to rebuild their society. With no leaders forthcoming, the priests were forced to take up civic as well as religious leadership. But Malachi criticises their poor leadership. They failed to correct abuses and injustices and could not resist the temptation to use their position for their own benefit. The Israelite priests and leaders had been given a mission to ensure that Israel would be faithful to the covenant, to be a light to the nations, an example of a truly welcoming and just community.

Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians is the oldest book of the New Testament and the oldest Christian text that we know. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that how each one of us lives our Christian life has an impact on everyone else in the community. We all play our part in creating a welcoming and just community. Is our Church being faithful to the vision of Jesus? Are we a community that is welcoming to people in need of God’s mercy and redemption?

Reflection by Gerard Louis CSsR

Novena notes



31st Ordinary Sunday
 Year A

5 November 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 5 November	Mal 1:14-2,2,8-10; 1 Th 2:7-9,13; Mt 23:1-12 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Mon, 6 November	Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14 In your great love, answer me, O God.
Tue, 7 November	Rom 12:5-16; Lk 14:15-24 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Wed, 8 November	Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33 Happy the man who takes pity and lends.
Thu, 9 November Dedication Of The Lateran Basilica In Rome	Ezek 47:1-2,8-9,12; 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17; Jn 2:13-22 The waters of a river give joy to God’s city, <u>the holy place where the Most High dwells.</u>
Fri, 10 November St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor	Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8 The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.
Sat, 11 November St Martin Of Tours, Bishop	Rom 16:3-9,16,22-27; Lk 16:9-15 I will bless your name for ever, O Lord.

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

Novena Church App

The Novena Church App is now available on your smartphones!

We have gone digital! You can now access the Novena devotion hymns and prayers through your iPhones and Android phones. You can also send in your thanksgiving and petition letters using the App.

Pray with us through the daily prayers and reflections on Bread4Today (provided by the Redemptorists from the Oceania Province). With the App, you will be able to receive the latest real-time updates from Novena Church.

Download now!



Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas has begun. It started on Saturday, 28th October 2017. The Theme for this special Novena is: "When A Child Is Born." All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

28 Oct : We are Children of God

4 Nov : Dependence and Trust

11 Nov : Innocence and Purity

18 Nov : Humility and Wonder

25 Nov : Growth and Maturity

2 Dec : Discipline and Obedience

9 Dec : Teaching and Learning

16 Dec : Honour and Respect

23 Dec : Jesus: A Child is Born

Society of St Vincent de Paul

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 5th November 2017 for our Friends-In-Need. Kindly give your generous support.



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 desk.

Spes Novum : A New Hope

3rd Dec 2017 @ 8pm Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

Join them for Spes Novum : A New Hope, a night of sacred music and traditional favourites. At \$22 a ticket, all proceeds will benefit the GIFT program.

Email : corovum8@gmail.com for more information.

Tour of the new Novena Church

Kindly take note the last day for the tour will be on 19th November 2017.

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.

Carpark

Please note that cars will have to double park for all Novena Devotions and Masses. Carpark Wardens will be there to assist you and direct you. We seek your co-operation with them, kindly remove your car immediately after the session.