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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Our Baptism and Identity

My colleague told me that she saw our boss at Christmas morning mass, and was shocked to find out that he was a Catholic! I knew why she was so surprised. He is not really a nice employer. But her exclamation that "he is a Catholic!" set me thinking. I realised that she expected a Catholic to be different; in fact to be better than the rest. Not just Catholics, but Christians, generally. There is an identity, and certain expectations attached to that identity. We are expected to be merciful, kind, generous and considerate. In sum, we are expected to be like Jesus!

On Monday, we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord, and we also recall our own baptism. The Baptism of Jesus confirmed his identity. By insisting that John the Baptist also baptise him in the Jordan, Jesus became like one of us - human, with all our weaknesses. But Jesus was also Divine. As he rose from the water, the heavens opened, and Jesus was affirmed as part of the Trinity - Father, Son and Spirit. Jesus was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Affirmed and empowered, Jesus began his Public Ministry. He taught, and showed us how to love, serve and forgive.

At our own baptism, too, we were given our identity. Baptised, also by water, we become part of the Community of Believers that Jesus is the Son of God and our Messiah. We were also filled with the Holy Spirit. Affirmed and empowered, we are sent out in the world to be like Christ- in the home, school, workplace, neighbourhood, community and in the church.

A priest once challenged us on the three aspects of "Being a Christian". In the past year: (a) Had we lived a life of holiness; (b) Evangelised; and (c) Served with the right spirit? I remember thinking: "Maybe"; "Not enough"; and "Not all the time". Fortunately, we were encouraged to look forward to the New Year with a new resolve to do better and more.

With the New Year, we are blessed with new beginnings. One of my resolutions is to live out my baptismal identity as a Christian. So how can I be a better witness? All we need to do is to keep taking up Jesus' invitation in this Sunday's Gospel Reading - "Come and see". When we go with Jesus and "stay with him the rest of that day", we will get to know and understand who Jesus is. Andrew, who after spending just one day with the Lord told his brother, Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah". We too cannot but filled with the hope and conviction that Jesus is who we have been looking for. So I intend to stay closely with Jesus by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures. I also intend to develop a deeper prayer life and participate more fully and frequently in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. God will surely give me the grace to be like him.

At the end of the day, the best affirmation of my identity would be if someone would say about me: "Of course, she is a Christian!"

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time
 Year B
 14 January 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 14 January	1 Sam 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42 Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.
Mon, 15 January	1 Sam 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Tue, 16 January	1 Sam 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28 I have found David, my servant.
Wed, 17 January St Anthony, Abbot	1 Sam 17:32-33,37,40-51; Mk 3:1-6 Blessed be the Lord, my rock.
Thu, 18 January	1 Sam 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12 In God I trust; I shall not fear.
Fri, 19 January	1 Sam 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19 Have mercy on me, God, have mercy.
Sat, 20 January St Fabian, Pope & Martyr St Sebastian, Martyr	2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 17, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21 Let your face shine on us, O Lord, and we shall be saved.

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

Car-Park Charges

All Drivers, please take note of our car-park rates.

Cars

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50
Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$2.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50
Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$2.50

Motor Cycles

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$1.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$1.50

Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools

Commencement of School Year 2018

This year, 6 principals have been newly appointed to head our Catholic schools and pre-schools. ACCS invites all educators to join us in a Mass to commemorate the occasion and to pray for all our Catholic schools and pre-schools.

The event will take place at 2.00pm on Saturday, 20 January 2018 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. His Grace, Archbishop William Goh will be the main celebrant.

As parking is limited on the Cathedral grounds, you are advised to park your vehicle in carparks around the vicinity.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be Tagalog Mass on 14th January and 28th January at 12 noon.



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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$15,329/-.

Thank you for your support for our Friends-In-Need.



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.