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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Hands to Serve and a Heart to Love

In 1994, I made Singapore my home. As a young Filipino, my goal was to make as much money as I could and have a comfortable life. My work became my life and I didn't see the need for God. One day, I felt a stirring in my heart that led me to the Novena Church. I gazed upon the cross, asking God to speak to me, but there was silence. I decided to leave, but the silence was broken by a Redemptorist Priest, inviting me to confession. I broke down and cried. After 21 years, I felt embraced by God's unconditional love and forgiveness.

My desire to serve God led me to the Gift of Love Home run by the Missionaries of Charity. It opened my eyes to the needs of the elderly, the sick, the dying, and those abandoned by their families. The consoling touch which brought a smile to their faces reminded me of the peace I felt surrendering my life to the will of God. As I guided the blind patients, I felt the Lord's guiding hands when I was lost.

My hunger to serve grew and this led me to Kolkata. At a leprosy center, I met a three-year-old girl whose feet were infected with gangrene.

Yet, she was able to smile. This encounter helped me to overcome my fear. It taught me not to let fear limit my capacity to love and to be loved. Not to let fear overcome the healing power of touch.

Returning from Kolkata, I realized Kolkata is everywhere. I felt the call to be a religious and to serve the poor and the abandoned. I resigned from my job and left the career that I'd built up for years and applied to the Redemptorists. I was inspired seeing the Redemptorists in mission, proclaiming the plentiful love, mercy and redemption of God.

However, my journey in religious life has not been a bed of roses. Before I entered the seminary, my father suffered a stroke and the family business collapsed, leaving us millions of pesos in debt. Last year, my mother broke her spine in an accident and two months later, my father was diagnosed with cancer. Amidst all these difficulties, I continue on my journey for I have found joy and meaning in serving God. Someone asked me, what does it take to serve? My response: by the grace of God...caring hands and a big heart to love.

Reflection by Melandro Pera



Pentecost Sunday
 Year B
 20 May 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 20 May Pentecost Sunday	Ac 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; Jn 15:26-27;16:12-15 Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.
Mon, 21 May SS. Christopher Magallanes, Priest and Companions, Martyrs	Jm 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29 The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Tue, 22 May St. Rita of Cascia, Religious	Jm 4:1-10; Jn 9:30-37 Entrust your cares to the Lord and he will support you.
Wed, 23 May	Jm 4:13-17; Mk 9:38-40 How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Thu, 24 May Mary Help of Christians Our Lady of Sheshen, China	Jm 5:1-6; Mk 9:41-50 How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Fri, 25 May St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor St. Gregory VII, Pope	Jm 5:9-12; Mk 10:1-12 The Lord is compassion and love.
Sat, 26 May St. Philip Neri, Priest	Jm 5:13-20; Mk 10: 13-16 Let my prayer come before you like incense, 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

The Apostles :

In response to many who have asked about the 12 Apostles featured on the stained-glass panels above the Sanctuary, we will be presenting 4 of them each week in the Novenanotes. Today we have :



(Below Our Holy Redeemer - from Left to the Right) :

St. James Alphaeus

St. John

St. Peter

St. James

NOVUM - Novena Church Volunteers in the Media Ministry

We are looking for volunteers in the following specialized areas to help in the outreach efforts of the Church. Please go to our website www.novenachurch.com to download a form or obtain one from the Reception. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Josephine Ee at 97926549 for more details.

1. Photographers
2. Videographers
3. Designers
4. Shrine Visual Tech Support
5. Computer programming specialists for Website / Apps Maintenance and Updating
6. Social media specialists
7. Communications Specialist

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.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 27th May at 12 noon.

World Communications Sunday

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$10,221/-.

DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers

Registration is open for Courses on Baking, Cooking, Cake Decoration, Sewing and Handicraft from July 2018 till December 2018.

The 2nd Batch 2018 Care-giving Course which is scheduled to begin on Sunday 15 July 2018.

Classes will be conducted on 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

Dates : Sundays, 20th, 27th May 2018, 3rd, 10th & 17th June 2018.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue: DAWN,
Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth) or
82333728 (Sr. Barbara)

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.