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St. Alphonsus Liguori

This weekend, Novena Church celebrates the Feast of St Alphonsus Liguori - Founder of the Redemptorist Order and the Patron of the Church. So I decided to reflect on some of St Alphonsus' quotes, and realised that St Alphonsus got it right. The essence of Christianity is 'Prayer' and 'Service'.

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears - of everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly, for God does not want to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him.

Prayer is not just the recitation of set or formulaic prayers. St Alphonsus describes prayer beautifully as an open conversation with God as a very good and trusted friend. I try and find a quiet space and time to talk to God every day. I can be standing in the crowded MRT on the way to work, but I can tune out the world and tune in to God. No stress. No fuss. Just my God and me. I talking and I listening. I knowing and I believing. I planning and I surrendering to His will for me.

The past is no longer yours; the future is not yet in your power. You have only the present wherein to do good.

St Alphonsus showed by example the good we can do in the present. His mission was always to take care of the spiritual needs of the poor and the marginalized. He sought out the very poor and the more abandoned on the Kingdom of Naples, and he preached very simple and effective sermons. A great change from the very successful lawyer who was renowned for never having lost a case. So what good can I do now and in the present? Plenty - when I hear the call for help from the church, charities and various other social cause groups. I am tired from my long hours of work, and I would certainly love to be able to just chill and relax. But I have decided that I need to respond. Nothing too big or ambitious. Just simple acts of kindness and service. So I now drive two persons to the hospital or for their therapy sessions. Their families do not have a car and I do. I am grateful I have the opportunity to do good now.

St Alphonsus may be doctor of the church, a moral theologian, a musician, an artist, a poet, a lawyer and the founder of a religious order. But at the heart of it all, St Alphonsus was simply a man of prayer and service. I pray that we can also be like St Alphonsus.

Happy Feast Day to all who come to worship and pray at this Church of St Alphonsus!

Your God is ever beside you - indeed, He is even within you.

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 29 July 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 29 July	2 Kgs 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15 You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.
Mon, 30 July St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor	Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35 You forget the God who fathered you.
Tue, 31 July St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43 Rescue us, O Lord, for the glory of your name.
Wed, 1 August St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor	Is 61:1-3; 2 Tim 2:1-7; Mt 9:35-10:1 Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Thu, 2 August St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest	Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53 He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God.
Fri, 3 August	Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58 In your great love, answer me, O God.
Sat, 4 August St. John Vianney, Priest	Jer 26:11-16,24; Mt 14:1-12 In your great love, answer me, O God.

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 New Bell Tower



On the top of the Bell Tower, it is the specially forged Rosary Cross. There are 3 of the original bells bearing the inscription, "These bells are a thanksgiving to our Mother of Perpetual Help, A.D. 1964."

St Alphonsus de Liguori, Founder of the Redemptorists and Patron of our Church

We shall celebrate our Patron's feast day at all Masses on 29th July 2018. Please continue to pray for the Redemptorists and also pray for more vocations to the Redemptorist Congregation.

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2018

The Novena in preparation for Annual Procession is in the 3rd week. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Called To Love!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

7 July : Love is always Patient and Kind

14 July : Love is not Envious

21 July : Love is not Boastful or Conceited

28 July : Love is not Selfish

4 Aug : Love is not Resentful

11 Aug : Love Delights in the Truth

18 Aug : Love is always ready to Excuse and to Trust

25 Aug : Love is always ready to Hope

1 Sept : Love Endures to the End

During this 9 week Special Novena, write a short Thanksgiving on the front of the specially provided heart-shaped papers. On the back, write the Names of your families for the Consecration of Families on the Day of the Annual Procession. Drop your "Hearts" in the special boxes at the front foyer and along the veranda of the Church.

Novena Annual Procession

The Annual Novena Procession will be on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 at 6.00pm.

Specially printed Annual Procession Envelopes are available around the Church compound. All collections collected will be used to defray the cost of the Annual Procession. We thank you for your generous support.

Novena Youth Night

Theme : Unstoppable Love

Inviting all youths aged 13 to 32. Join us for an evening of worship and praise on Monday the 3rd of September, the day after our annual procession as we soak in the plentiful, crazy and unstoppable love of our Lord. Love knows no boundaries and the LORD is calling you to experience him in a special, fun and intimate way. So come prepared to be completely mesmerized and changed by his love.

Safety Checks

For our peace of mind and the safety of all, our Ministers of Hospitality will be carrying out a simple check of bags and bulky items being brought into the Church.

Please give them your full cooperation. 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.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.

