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Called to Love

Since the first Procession in 1953, the first Sunday of September has been the most anticipated day of the year for devotees.

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help holds a very important place in the spirituality and ministry of the Redemptorists. In 1886, Pope Pius IX entrusted the icon to the Redemptorists and commissioned them to “make her known throughout the world.” The Redemptorists began the Novena in Singapore 1949 and it has grown immeasurably from the little makeshift chapel where it started, to the old church which was opened in 1950, and now, to this new church. The last procession at Novena Church was held in 2014 just before it was closed for rebuilding and we have been waiting for four years for this day.

The Procession is a celebration of the icon and its message. What is the message of the icon? The icon expresses our faith in the redemption of Christ. Jesus looks ahead anxiously to the suffering that awaits him and clings to his mother’s arms. Mary shares in his suffering and she points us to him, our Redeemer. It is an icon of love, a story of how God chose to become one of us, to share our lives and to bring us redemption.

The theme for our Procession this year is Called to Love. The Mission Statement of Novena Church says that we are a community under the care of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. But what does it mean to be devoted to Mary and to the Novena? True devotion must lead us to evangelization, authentic worship and service to the poor and the abandoned. The experience of the redemption of Christ and the care and intercession of Mary, call us to love. We are called to live our faith and share it with others; our worship and devotion must lead us to serve.

The readings today help us reflect on the relationship between devotion and mission. The ancient Israelites and the Pharisees were strict in their interpretation of the Law. However, some were smug in the assurance of God’s salvation. Sometimes, they were happy to follow minute details like washing dishes rather than showing compassion to people who were suffering. The Letter of James reminds us that we must not only be hearers of the word - we must be doers of the word.

In the same way, our devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help challenges us to live our Christian faith more fully. The blessings that we have received from God through the intercession of Mary inspire us and call us to love.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 2nd September 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 2 September	Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; Jm 1:17-18,21-22,27; Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 The just will live in the presence of the Lord.
Mon, 3 September St. Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor	1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30 Lord, how I love your law!
Tue, 4 September	1 Cor 2:10-16; Lk 4:31-37 The Lord is just in all his ways.
Wed, 5 September St. Teresa of Kolkata, Religious	1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44 Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.
Thu, 6 September	1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11 The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness.
Fri, 7 September	1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39 The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Sat, 8 September The Nativity Of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Mic 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16,18-23 I exult for joy in the 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

History of Novena Annual Procession

The first Marian procession was held on the grounds of the church on the 21st June 1953. In 1959 the first floral wall was conceived by Bro. Casimir Godebye C.Ss.R. followed by the crowning of the Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help outside the church.



As the date coincided with the Corpus Christi Feast celebrated along the streets around the cathedral, the date was moved to the first Sunday of September in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Mary. This then became an annual event.



The tradition of the floral wall and crowning with various religious themes was a regular feature for many decades until the last procession in September 2014 with the theme "The Joy of the Gospel with Mary". The church was then closed for the building of the new church. This year, the procession resumes with the theme "Called to Love."



Novena Youth Rally

Theme : Unstoppable Love

Inviting all youths aged 13 to 30. Join us for an evening of worship and praise on Monday the 3rd of September, from 7pm to 10pm, the day after our annual procession as we soak in the plentiful, crazy and unstoppable redemption 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.

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2018

The Novena in preparation for Annual Procession is in the final week. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Called To Love!"

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

Special heart-shaped papers will be distributed by our volunteers, please refrain from taking too many so that the rest of the congregation can get a chance to have one to write a short Thanksgiving on the front and write the Names of your families for the Consecration of Families on the back. Drop your "Hearts" in the special boxes at the front foyer and along the veranda of the Church.

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.

