

Ambition and Service

Jesus takes the trouble to give his disciples a lesson in private. For the second time he takes them aside and tells them what was going to happen to him. He talks to them about his impending betrayal, death, and resurrection. But they do not understand what he is saying and are afraid to ask him. A reason for this perhaps is that they are preoccupied with their own ambitions and they miss his message completely? They are more interested in who among them is the greatest and the first.

There is nothing wrong with being ambitious, provided it is not out of selfishness, greed, jealousy, hypocrisy or pride. When ambition is driven by these, then it is false ambition. False ambition damages the unity and peace of the community. It results in all kinds of bad behaviour.

Jesus does not condemn ambition. He redefines it. For Jesus, to be great is to serve others before self and to be first is to make ourselves last. This is one of the hardest lessons for us to learn. It goes against the grain of all that we have been taught to understand and do in our society. Being a servant doesn't sit well with our personal pride and ego. Placing ourselves last doesn't give a boost to our sense of worth and self-esteem. We want to be served and we demand to be first in everything.

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When we think of it, who are the really great people in the world - the ones who are admired and remembered fondly? Can we name a few men and women who inspire us by their lives and who have made a difference in the lives of others? I can think of these few:

William Wilberforce - the 19th century British politician, born into luxury and privilege and fought to abolish British homeland slavery.

Corrie ten Boom - the Dutch woman who hid and protected Jewish people from the Nazis, was taken away with her family to a prison camp, and survived to spread the powerful message of forgiveness.

Amy Carmichael - she spent 55 uninterrupted years in southern India, saving many children from prostitution.

Ben Carson - raised by a single mother in inner-city Detroit, he became head of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins and was the first person to successfully separate twins born joined at the back of the head.

These women and men had ambitions of their own but they understood the message of Jesus. Their ambition in life was to embrace and welcome "little ones" in the name of Jesus. They put their brothers and sisters first and served them with their lives.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSsR

Novena notes

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B
23rd September 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 23 September	Wis 2:12,17-20; Jm 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37 The Lord upholds my life.
Mon, 24 September	Prov 3:27-34; Lk 8:16-18 The just will live in the presence of the Lord.
Tue, 25 September	Prov 21:1-6,10-13; Lk 8:19-21 Guide me, Lord, in the path of your commands.
Wed, 26 September Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, CSsR	Phil 4:4-9; Mk 10:13-16 Be my strength, O Lord.
Thu, 27 September St. Vincent de Paul, Priest	Eccles 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9 O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Fri, 28 September St. Wenceslaus, SS. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs	Eccles 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22 Blessed be the Lord, my rock.
Sat, 29 September The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Jn 1:47-51 In the presence of the angels I will bless you, 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

26th September, Feast of Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, CSsR

Gaspar Stanggassinger was born in Berchtesgaden, Germany on 12 January 1871. From his youth, Gaspar had a desire to become a priest. He used to engage his brothers and sisters with preaching and processions. At the age of ten, he went to Freising to continue his schooling where he found the studies rather difficult. But he succeeded in making steady progress with effort and prayer.



In 1884, he was admitted to the minor seminary in Freising. In 1890, after his diploma, he entered the diocesan seminary and it became clear to him that the Lord was calling him to live as a religious. In 1892, after a visit of the Redemptorist missionaries, he was inspired to follow their vocation as missionaries. In spite of his father's opposition, he entered the novitiate the same year and was ordained a priest in 1895.

Gaspar entered the Congregation with the intention of preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned. He was deeply devoted to the Eucharist and in his preaching invited all to have recourse to the Blessed Sacrament in times of need and anxiety.

He was proclaimed blessed by John Paul II on 24th April 1988.

Hope For Refugees Begins With You

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Singapore is holding an exhibition at the foyer.

Come and find out about the courage and perseverance of millions of refugees and how you can help. Take home one-of-a-kind memorabilia. See you there!

Examination Mass

"Do your best and Let God do the rest" -Colossians 3:23-24

The Redemptorist Youth Ministry welcomes all youths, parents and teachers to join in a Eucharistic Celebration to pray for the upcoming End-Of-Year Exams.

Theme : Believe
Venue : Main Church
Date : 28th September 2018
Time : 8pm

Appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund

CHARIS is making its annual appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund to support the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian work and disaster response.

Appeal flyers and envelopes are available. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "CHARIS HAF" with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, #07-02 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954.

Please contact us at 6337-4119 or info@charis-singapore.org for further information.

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.



Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 29th September 2018.