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The Mighty Double-edged sword

Imagine Jesus in the midst of a battle. His many enemies surround him, and he is holding a sword of burnished steel with both hands. As his enemies run to attack, he wields the mighty sword, and his enemies fall with every swing of his sword.

Before firearms using gunpowder came into existence in Thirteen Century Europe, the sword was the weapon of war and defense. Metals sharpened and soldered to a handle were used to cut, thrust and kill. The double-edged sword was the mightiest sword because the blade could cut both ways. But the person using the sword had to be an accomplished swordsman. He had to be strong and relentless. He had to keep moving around, slashing and thrusting in one direction, and then quickly changing to another direction.

In the 2nd Reading, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews uses the metaphor of the double-edged sword to describe the power of the Word of God. Not only is it alive and active, the Word can cut so finely and cleanly. The Word uncovers everything and reveals all to God, the Father and Creator. There will be no secrets before the Lord!

The Word of God cuts through the darkness, hypocrisy and falsehood. In this current world of 'Fake News', the Word remains the standard of truth, right and good: "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4)

Although, it seems that world's values, sin and evil are 'winning', Jesus promised that his word will endure and will prevail: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

But Jesus is the Word. So everything said about the "Word of God" applies to him. Jesus, himself, is the mighty double-edged sword that will destroy and defeat Sin and Death. He is the promised Messiah who "will crush the head of the serpent". (Genesis 3:15)

So what do I do with this double-edged sword? I use it. I will reflect, ponder and apply in my life the Word of God, as it is revealed to me in the Holy Scriptures. As Jesus said: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28) For example, when Jesus in the Gospel says, "forgive" and "pray for those who hurt you", I now pray for the grace to let go and forgive. When St. Paul says that God "loves a cheerful giver", (2 Corinthians 9:7), I now examine the ways I can give more generously; not just money, but my time and energy. As the word uncovers and reveals my true motives and attitude, may my life be more pleasing to the Lord.

Finally, in all my 'ups and downs', I trust in the Lord, and hold tightly to the cross: "You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word." (Psalm 130:5)

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



28th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 14th October 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 14 October	Wis 7:7-11; Hebr 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.
Mon, 15 October St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor	Gal 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1; Lk 11:29-32 May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore!
Tue, 16 October St. Gerard Majella CSsR	Phil 3:8-14; Jn 12:23-32 You are my God, my only good.
Wed, 17 October St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr	Gal 5:18-25; Lk 11:42-46 Anyone who follows you, O Lord, will have the light of life.
Thu, 18 October St. Luke, Evangelist	2 Tim 4:10-17; Lk 10:1-9 Your friends, O Lord, shall make known the glorious splendor of your reign.
Fri, 19 October SS. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions. Martvrs	Eph 1:11-14; Lk 12:1-7 Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.
Sat, 20 October	Eph 1:15-23; Lk 12:8-12 You gave your Son power over the works of your hand.

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

16th October, Feast of St. Gerard Majella, CSsR

Gerard Majella was born in Muro Lucano (Potenza) in southern Italy on 6 April 1726 in a family of humble circumstances. From his parents, Gerard learned the love of prayer and sacrifice. When his father died, Gerard, being the only son, had to provide for his family by working as a tailor.

At the age of 14, he sought to enter the Capuchin friary but he was rejected because of his delicate health. After a short time as the domestic servant of the bishop of Lacedonia, he returned to tailoring, but with minimal income.

In April 1749, with utter tenacity, he succeeded in getting himself accepted by the Redemptorists who had preached a mission in Muro. After a trial period and a year of novitiate in the house at Deliceto, he made his religious profession on 16 July 1752.

He was very observant of the rule, while at the same time going about the surrounding countryside to collect money for the material needs of the community. His presence to people, who were weighed down by poverty and illiteracy and at the mercy of epidemics and crop failures, was seen as a sign of hope.



Gerard had a deep empathy for them and gave to all a testimony to trust in the love and the compassion of God. During his five years as a lay brother in the Congregation, he was remarkable for his apostolic zeal, his patience in sickness, his love for the poor, his deep humility in the face of false accusation, heroic obedience, his spirit of penance and his constancy in prayer. He died at Materdomini (Avellino) on 16 October 1755.

He was beautified by Leo XIII on 29 January 1893 and canonized by Pius X on 11 December 1904. Remembered among the people for his love for them. he is especially invoked as patron for mothers, particularly in time of pregnancy and for their infants.

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas will begin on Saturday, 27th October 2018. The Theme for this special Novena is: "His Name shall be...." All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

27 Oct : Jesus (Introduction)

3 Nov : Son of David

10 Nov : Son of the Most High

17 Nov : Mighty God

24 Nov : The Christ

1 Dec : Wonderful Counselor

8 Dec : Prince of Peace

15 Dec : Saviour

22 Dec : Immanuel

Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30 evening Mass from Monday to Friday in the month of October.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Recruitment for Choirs

1). The St. John Neumann Choir (8am, Sunday) is recruiting projectionists to man the AV system at masses.

For those interested or in need of more details, please call Susan at 9664 7900.

2). The St. Alphonsus Choir (10am, Sunday) is recruiting the following: Choir (Singers), Projectionists, Violinist, Cellist and Flautist.

For those interested, please approach the Church Reception for the recruitment leaflet.

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.