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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Jesus came to set the earth on fire

The gospel reading of this Sunday tells us that Jesus came to set the earth on fire, not to establish peace but division on this earth. It appears disturbing to hear that “a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three”.

What does Jesus really mean? To be baptized as a disciple of Christ, we are set apart from the rest. When we embrace the values of Christ, we see the world differently from others. Our words and actions are set apart from the world.

Personally speaking, I can see the difference. I was brought up in an environment where there was much fear and superstition. There was always talk about “offending spirits” and bad luck. It was deemed as a taboo to attend a wake and a wedding within the same week. My parents even created a door in our home for good fengshui. Hospital was a place of disease and germs. There were a lot of things to avoid to avert bad luck. Looking back, it was a miserable life of fear and restraint.

When I became a Catholic and understood that God reigns supreme, these shackles of the past were removed. I felt free, free to love and be there for the people who needed care and support. I was assured that all acts of love and charity are anchored on Jesus.

From my short sharing, we can see that perspectives, values and views differ between persons who are baptized and have faith in the Lord and those who only believe in themselves.

I recall a conversation I had with my colleague. She vehemently indicated that she cannot forgive her husband if he had done her wrong as she could not accept any imperfection in the relationship. I reflected and realized that my idea of perfection had also changed over the years. I would have said the same if I had no God in my life.

A fellow Catholic shared with me that we are all works in progress, on a journey. No one is perfect, only God. She shared that since we are not perfect ourselves, it was not easy to judge another. She was always open and listening, never judging. Understanding her background and the context has humbled me. I must admit that I am still “work in progress” when it comes to judging others. I catch my own thoughts and try to reframe.

Although we are set apart from the world, we are asked to be in the world to make a difference. Jesus came to set the earth on fire. As his baptized disciples, we are called to ignite love in the world.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year C
 18 August 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 18 August	Jer 38:4-6,8-10; Hebr 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53 Lord, come to my aid!
Mon, 19 August St. John Eudes	Jdg 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22 O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.
Tue, 20 August St. Bernard	Jdg 6:11-24; Mt 19:23-30 The Lord speaks peace to his people.
Wed, 21 August St. Pius X	Jdg 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16 O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king.
Thu, 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Is 9:1-6; Lk 1:26-38 May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore!
Fri, 23 August St. Rose of Lima	Ruth 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Mt 22:34-40 My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Sat, 24 August St. Bartholomew	Rev 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51 Your friends, O Lord, make known the glorious splendor of your reign.

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

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2019.

The Novena in preparation for our Annual Procession has begun. The theme for this special Novena is: "Completely Yours". All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

6 July - Completely Yours

13 July - Completely Yours: In Devotion

20 July - Completely Yours: In Worship

27 July - Completely Yours: In Mind

3 Aug - Completely Yours: In Heart

10 Aug - Completely Yours: In Service

17 Aug - Completely Yours: In Communication Through Technology

24 Aug - Completely Yours: In Beyond Borders

31 Aug - Completely Yours: In Youthful Passion

Triduum Mass in preparation for Annual Procession 2019

28 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To God

29 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To Self

30 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To You

Time : 7pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R

Novena Annual Procession

Date : 1st September 2019

Time : 6pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R

Celebrant : Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zaleski

Please take note there will be **NO** Sunset Mass on 31st August and **NO** Morning Masses on 1st September 2019. The Church and the carpark will be "locked down" after the last Novena Devotion at 5.30pm on Saturday. The carpark will be closed to prepare for the Annual Procession after the last Novena till 2nd September 2019.

Forms for Consecration of the Families are available around the Church. Please drop them in the boxes after you have written the families for consecration.

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

Novena Youth Rally

Date : 2nd September 2019

Time : 7pm

Theme : A Journey

Finding stillness amidst rising tides. Dive into the safe space of community.

Calling all youths. Dive deep. Join us at the Novena Youth Rally. Bring your friends to come experience the stillness of God's presence.

On 2nd September 2019, the Masses will be as usual for 6.30am and 12.15pm. There will be **NO** Evening Mass in preparation for the Youth Rally.



Extraordinary Mission Month

"Pope Francis has proclaimed October 2019 as the Extraordinary Mission Month, and with the Theme: 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'

In preparation for this month, the Religious in the Archdiocese of Singapore have been coming together to pray and reflect. The third and final session will be hosted by the Redemptorists at Novena Church, and our theme will be: "A vibrant missionary and evangelistic Church : A conversion on the mission of the Church in Singapore".

The Redemptorists is inviting Ministry Members, as well as members of the Congregation of the Novena Church to participate.

Date: Friday, 30 August 2019
Time: 2.00pm- 6.15pm
Venue: Auditorium, Level 2, Novena Church

If you are interested to attend, please give your name, phone contact and email address at the Church Reception.
Closing Date: Tuesday, 20 August 2019."

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 25th August 2019 at 12 noon.

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 31st August 2019.

