



TRICKSTER OR CLEVER RASCAL?

I have always wondered how the business world operates. There are many honest businessmen and women out there. And of course there are also dishonest ones, as in other professions as well. As long as there are humans involved there is always a chance that dishonesty may creep in especially when there is a chance to make a fast buck. It's even worse when it's at the expense of the poor and the needy.

The prophet Amos warns about this injustice in today's first reading. Today's gospel from Luke has been interpreted in many ways, but only one makes sense to me. Some entitle it the 'dishonest steward', others, 'the shrewd manager'. I would like to entitle it, "Trickster or Clever Rascal" as one commentary seems to agree.

Here Jesus creates one of the most provocative stories. The manager who arranges things for himself 'dishonestly' is so clever, so wise, that the rich man, the owner of the estate cannot help but be amazed. One can only imagine what he might do. The owner might slap his knee and say, "That crook! I fired him on the spot just a couple of days ago for mismanagement. But now look he has moved towards my debtors to try to con them. And he has used what belongs to me to do it. What gall!!! But how clever. He is a rascal. But a remarkably clever one.

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653

T 6255 2133

F 6356 9910

E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

W novenachurch.com

PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

It is his cleverness, shrewdness not his wickedness that earns commendation by his employer. So the manager was praised for his astuteness, cleverness and not his dishonesty, which is a bad thing.

We are called to be witnesses to Christ to use our guile, astuteness, wisdom and cleverness to find out new ways in proclaiming the Kingdom of God. To proclaim the Gospel anew.

Are we 'Children of this World' who are generally wise in securing their own future for themselves at all cost. What really matter is all about, 'I, me and myself', the Most Unholy Trinity. I once saw a bumper sticker on a car, which read, "I Love Jesus and My Wife, the Rest of You Can Go to Hell".

Or are we 'Children of Light' as today's Gospel mentions, no less than the 'Children of this World', give attention to other matters first. But no matter, is as important, or as urgent as their relationship to God by selfless service to others.

So as 'Children of Light' let us praise not only our shrewdness, cleverness but also our honesty in sharing one thing that money cannot buy, Our Faith.

Reflection by Glenn de Cruz CSsR

Novena notes



25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year C

22 September 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 22 September	Am 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.
Mon, 23 September St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	Ezra 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18 What marvels the Lord worked for us.
Tue, 24 September	Ezra 6:7-8,12,14-20; Lk 8:19-21 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
Wed, 25 September	Ezra 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6 Blessed be God who lives for ever.
Thu, 26 September Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, CSsR	Phil 4:4-9; Lk Mk 10:13-16 Be my strength, O Lord.
Fri, 27 September St. Vincent de Paul	Hag 1:15-2:9; Lk 9:18-22 Hope in God, I will praise him still, my savior and my God.
Sat, 28 September St. Wenceslaus, SS. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions	Zec 2:5-9,14-15; Lk 9:43-45 The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock.

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

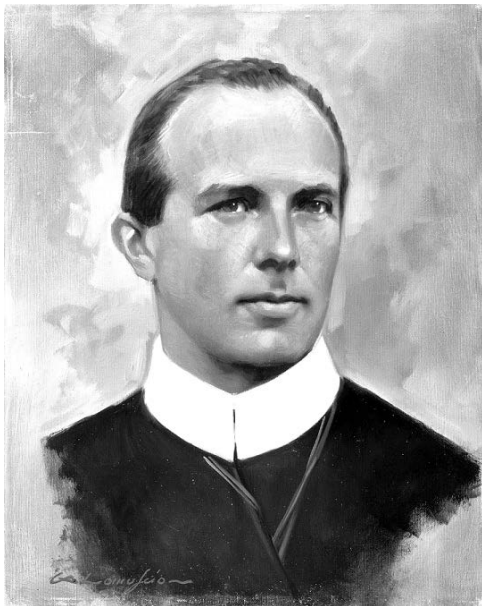
Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

26th September, Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, CSsR

Gaspar Stanggassinger, the second of 16 children, was born in Berchtesgarden, Germany on January 12, 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 10, he went to Freising to continue his schooling where he found the studies rather difficult, so that there was even the question of quitting his studies. But he succeeded in making steady progress with effort and prayer. He joined the minor seminary in Freising in 1884.



In 1890, he entered the diocesan seminary. During this time, it became clear to him that the Lord was calling him to live as a religious. In 1892, after a visit of the Redemptorists, he was inspired to follow their vocation as missionaries. Despite his father's opposition, he entered the novitiate the same year and was ordained a priest in 1895.

He entered the Congregation with the intention of preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned. He was deeply devoted to the Eucharistic Lord. He was simple and direct, inspiring the faithful to confidence, fraternal charity and to take Christian life seriously.

He used to say : "The saints have a special intuition. For me, who am not a saint, what is important are the simple eternal truths: the Incarnation, the Redemption and the Holy Eucharist."

He was proclaimed Blessed by John Paul II on April 24, 1988

Monster In Every Room

Family Life Society will be organising a session to talk about arming yourself and your Child with tools to conquer PORN!

9th October 2019, Wednesday
7.00pm to 9.30pm, at \$10 per pax
55 Waterloo Street
Level 3, Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : bit.ly/fls_mer

My Child Is Made For More

Family Life Society will be organising a workshop to learn about the sexuality issues facing youth on premarital/casual sex and pornography, and equip yourself to be the primary sexuality educator of your children. This workshop is open for parents and those who work with children.

26th October 2019 (9am - 1.30pm)
2nd November 2019 (9am - 4.30pm)
55 Waterloo Street
Level 2, Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : bit.ly/fls_mfm

Love Life Conference

Family Life Society will be organising a conference to hear about the legal, medical and emotional aspects relating to the beginning of life, the options that all mothers have and the impact of abortion. No fee needed.

27th September 2019, Friday
7.15pm to 9.45pm.
Lifelong Learning Institute
11 Eunos Road 8 Level 2

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : bit.ly/lfc_sep

Treasure Retreat 2019 for Young Working Adults

Office for Young People (OYP) is organising a stay-in encounter retreat for young working adults, Treasure 11, is now open for registration. It will be held from 25th October (Friday) 8pm to 28th October (Monday) 6pm, at \$130 per person.

Come as you are! Register here : oyp.org.sg/treasure11