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PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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IS GOD DEAD?

The above heading, was the title for the cover story of Time magazine on April 8, 1966. I am not going into the story or the backlash from the Christians against the title and cover story at that time.

But a friend prompted the above question to me after hearing of the violence and bloodshed around the world and poor people suffering from the lack of bare necessities just to survive. He used to pray, but gave up after a while. Where is God? Is God Dead?

There was a Religious Order who tried to change after Vatican II in the late nineteen sixties. The members voiced their rejection of praying together every morning, because it was a waste of time, they would say. Instead they should put their faith into action and go out in the world and find Jesus in the poor. The Superior was not impressed. He said to them. The reason why we should pray first is that the poor might Jesus in us.

It's like the man, as he prayed, came upon the beggar and the poor. And seeing them, he went down into a deeper prayer and cried, "Great God, how is it that a loving creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?"

And out of the long silence, God said: "I did do something about them. I made you".

Praying is necessary and sometimes God works through people and events of our lives calling us to put our faith into action. Our God is a God of justice who is not deaf to the cry of the oppress, the widow and orphan, as today's first reading from Sirach tells us.

It's all well and good to learn the traditional prayers by heart like the Pharisee, who is praying partly from the Talmud the Jewish prayer book, in today's gospel for God to hear his prayers. The problem is that he was also self-righteous. If we are humble enough, like the tax-collector and speak from our heart and admit that we are sinners then God is more likely to answer, calling us to put our faith into action. Jesus concludes by pointing out, "I tell you, the tax-collector went home justified, not the Pharisee; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted".

We can be rest assured that God is real and alive, as Psalms 14 and 53 points out, "The fool says in his heart there is no God".

Reflection by Glenn de Cruz, CSSR

Novena notes



30th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C
27 October 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 27 October	Sir 35:12-14,16-19; 2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18; Lk 18:9-14 This poor man called; the Lord heard him.
Mon, 28 October SS. Simon and Jude	Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-19 Their word goes forth through all the earth.
Tue, 29 October	Rom 8:18-25; Lk 13:18-21 What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Wed, 30 October	Rom 8:26-30; Lk 13:22-30 Lord, I trust in your mercy.
Thu, 31 October	Rom 8:31-39; Lk 13:31-35 Save me, O Lord, because of your love.
Fri, 1 November All Saints Day	Rev 7:2-4,9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Sat, 2 November All Souls Day	Is 25:6-9; Rom 5:5-11; Lk 7:11-17 The Lord is my light and my help.

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

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas has begun. The Theme for this special Novena is, "The Birth of Jesus". All are welcome. Bring along your family and friends.

26 Oct: Jesus, fully Human

2 Nov: Jesus, the Christ-Child

9 Nov: Jesus and Bethlehem

16 Nov: Jesus the Immigrant

23 Nov: Jesus and the Manger

30 Nov: Jesus and the Shepherds

7 Dec: Jesus and His Family

14 Dec: Jesus – Saviour, The Light of the World

21 Dec: Jesus – The King

Praying The Rosary

There will be praying of the Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm from Monday to Friday in the month of October.

28th October, Public Holiday

Please take note that there will be NO lunch time Mass on Monday, 28th October being a public holiday. Masses will be at 8am and 6.30pm.

Solemnity of All Saints' Day

Please take note of the Mass Times.

Thursday, 31st October (Vigil Mass) – 7pm

Friday, 1st November – 6.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm

Novena Church 70th Anniversary Celebrations

The Novena Church will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary next year. We invite your submission for a contest to design a logo for the celebrations.

The winning entry will be awarded a cash prize. If you are interested, please pick up a copy of the form at Church Reception or email to secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com, and the Contest submission form and specifications will be emailed to you. Closing date is 30 November 2019.

"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Courses on Baking, Cooking and Cake Decoration (Basic & Advance), Sewing and Handicraft from January 2020 till June 2020.

The 1st Batch 2020 Care-Giving Course is scheduled to begin on Sunday, 29th March. Classes will be conducted on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

Registration is open

Dates : Sundays in October, November & December 2019.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue : DAWN,
Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth),
82694546 (Rowena), or
82333728 (Sr. Barbara)

Redemptorist Vocation Retreat

If you are a young man discerning what God may be calling you to do in life, the Redemptorists invite you to a stay-in vocation retreat.

Come and find out more about the Redemptorist mission and way of life.

Date : 9th to 10th November 2019
Venue : 11 Nallur Road,
Singapore 456610

Register by sending your details to vocationdirectorcssr@novenachurch.com

