YEAR B

Fourth Sunday in Easter

APRIL 29, 2012

Being mostly a shepherding people, Israel enjoyed thinking of the Lord as its divine "Shepherd." The pious Jews expressed their trust in God's provident care and protection by singing:

"The Lord is my shepherd. I shall want for nothing . . . I fear no evil!" *(Ps 23:1.4)*

And the Lord did take care of His "flock" in all circumstances. In most cases, however, He entrusted the ordinary care of Israel to human "shepherds": the political and religious leaders of His people. They were expected to be the *symbols* and *instruments* of the fatherly concern which the divine Shepherd showed for His people at all times.

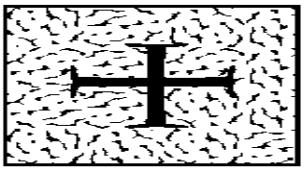
Often, however, the leaders had turned into "bad shepherds" who pastured themselves, while treating the sheep harshly. *(See Ez 34:3-6.)* The Lord threatened to dismiss the bad shepherds and promised to take care of His own flock personally. *(See Ez 34:11-16.)* Such a promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God-made-man. In his short earthly existence, through his teaching, his miracles and his loving kindness, Jesus showed in innumerable instances the way a good shepherd should treat his own flock. Eventually, he went to the extent of laying down his life for his sheep, thus living up to the definition of "good shepherd" which he himself had given. *(See Jn 10:11.)*

After his resurrection Jesus did not forget his "little flock" of frightened disciples. Knowing that he would not be visibly present among them any longer, he entrusted them all to the care of Peter, the chief shepherd *(see Jn 21:15-17),* and of all the other apostles *(see Mt 28:19-20),* and their successors. They were to watch over the whole flock the Holy Spirit had entrusted to their care. They were to shepherd "the Church of God which he has acquired at the price of his own blood" *(Acts 20:28)*.

This task is not easy. It can, actually, be very demanding, indeed, if one takes one's duty seriously and does one's best to imitate the dedication of Christ. The history of the Church has known wonderful examples of spiritual shepherds who have given their life for the good or the defense of their flock. Bishop Romero of El Salvador is one of these heroes in our modern times. Fr. Charlito Colendres, who died while trying to save the drowning victims of the flash floods that hit Southern Luzon in 2004, is the Philppines' local "hero shepherd."

We should pray that the Lord may send us many more such shepherds who will prove to all that CHRIST the GOOD SHEPHERD is still alive and caring. And whenever they live up to the expectation of the divine Shepherd, their little or large flocks experience once again the saving presence of the Risen Lord.

WORD AND LIFE PUBLICATIONS



The STONE rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone

Today's gospel is Jesus' explanation of His most intimate relationships that never end—*believers, Jesus and God the Father, together forever*. All of us at the FCMM are believers that Jesus and God His Father are one, and there are millions more believers outside of our parish. In the spirit of hospitality let us strive to perfect all relationships. Let us be mindful of the fact that we will be together for a really long time. Greet others as if you're their friend forever, because they most likely will be! Have peace in your mind, love in your eyes, and joy in your heart.

WORLD DAY of PRAYER for VOCATIONS -

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special celebration of WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. The world - wide church honors all Christian vocations. We pray that our church may be enriched by our commitment to remain faithful to God's call. Jesus, the good Shepherd, guides and protects us on our journey.

LET US PRAY …

Generous God, You show us the way that leads to everlasting life. Through baptism you have called us to proclaim the Good News. Bless and strengthen those who have made a commitment to service in the Church. Guide and give wisdom to those discerning their vocation. Enrich our Church with dedicated married and single people, with deacons, priests and religious. Filled with joy and your Holy Spirit, may we follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

THE MARIAN MONTH OF MAY

This week the month of May begins. It is one of two months in the year when we Catholics traditionally honour the blessed Virgin. This month is referred to as the month of Mary. The other, October, is the month of the Most Holy Rosary. May is a month when we remember and celebrate the most important woman in the life of God's people - the Blessed Virgin Mary. 'The Church's devotion to her is intrinsic to Christian worship'. Mary plays a significant part in the Easter story. She is also the mother of the Church. Since we are the people of God and we are the Church, Mary is our mother as well. To honor Mary this month of May, here at the FCMM, the Rosary will prayed before all the Liturgical services — with these prayers being offered for the intentions of the community. On Sundays, aside from the Holy Rosary, Novena Prayers to the Virgin Mary will be recited, followed by a Floral Offering ("***ALAY***") by children and devotees of the Blessed Virgin Mary… Everyone is invited.

Catholic Church of Montreal
Proposing Jesus Christ Today

24TH ANNUAL COLLECTION of the Church of Montreal-

Special Second Collection will be taken up. Please be generous. Thank You.

❖ **PISTA'Y DAYAT 2012** - ***(Our Lady of Manaoag Fiesta)***

The FCMM will once again be the venue for this year's celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of The Rosary of Manaoag on ***SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012***. Sponsored by the Pangasinan Association of Quebec Inc., the celebration will start at **11:00 a.m.** with the Recitation of the Novena to Our Lady of Manaoag followed by the Holy Mass. The Mass will be highlighted by a Floral Offering to the Virgin. Come and join us !

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by ***TONY and NORMA FOZ.***

THE SEARCH FOR THE 2012 FCMM KING and QUEEN OF ANGELS is in FULL SWING !

CANDIDATES:

JOELYNE ARBOLEDA CHANEL-GRACE BAUTISTA
EVANGELINE MARIE FOZ ELAMPARO
LOUISE-MARIE KARDOS MARY-JAEL YASIS
DUSTIN JACOB MENESES ALCAIDE NOEL-JAMES ANDAL
ARIEL - JAY LAZARO AQUINO
JUSTIN SERGE TEOFISTO JARED JOSEPH VISARIO

Please remember that supporting them means supporting the Filipino Church in Montreal.

* First Canvassing – May 29, 2010 * Last Canvassing - October 30, 2010
* Tax – deductible receipts will be issued at the end of the year to those who will contribute $20.00 or more

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." *- Psalm 118: 8-9*

Too often our society trains us to take refuge in man-made riches. Yet Thomas Merton once wrote, "There is no poverty so great as that of the prosperous." Too many possessions can leave us empty - always questing for more things that do not really matter - while we ignore our Lord.

Your Offerings for the week ending April 22, 2012 totaled 1,275. 50

Thank you for your continuing generosity !

God bless you always!!!

- To the New Arrivals from the Philippines
- To the Visitors from other places;
- To those who have been away and are back;

- We join in the Thanksgiving Intentions of:

ALICE PANADO.

- Please join in lifting up the Special Intentions of :

THE FOZ FAMILY.

- Your prayers are humbly requested for all the Sick and Suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: **FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, SR. ELIZABETH RELACION mic, SR. LUZ PADERANGA op, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, JESS ALCAIDE, ELECITA ARACENA, ANNIE MOJADO, WILFREDO QUIRAPAS, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, ANTONIO FOZ, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, DAWN DELA PAZ, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, WILFREDO DARIO, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, TRANQUILINO BIGCAS, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, ADRIANA BACQUIAL, JOSEFINA CALDITO RAQUIZA, NIDA VIERNES, RODOLFO KAHULUGAN SR..** May God bring them healing and peace.
- Remember also all of our Deceased Relatives and Friends, especially **RAYMUND TUVIDA,SOTERO MOJADO, SATURNINO QUIRAPAS SR., MILAGROS ABARE, RICARDO PERIODICA SR., DANIEL BERMUNDO SR., LOURDES COLLADO, ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY** and those dying everyday in battles and calamities around the world. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Stop by or call the FCMM office (514 387 – 5292) during normal business hours and have a Mass offered for your intention.