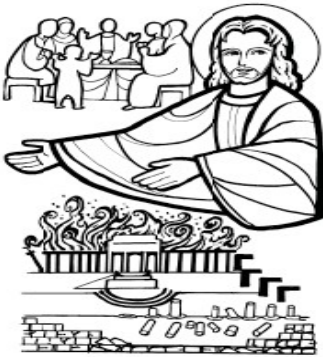




**NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES
CATHOLIC MISSION
MONTREAL, CANADA
17 November 2013
33RD Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**



Time of Trials, Time to Witness to Christ



As we approach the end of the Year of the Church, the liturgy invites us to reflect on a very important event that will surely take place, but at a time that only God knows: the end of the world.

The purpose of the invitation to reflect on that dramatic event is not to fill us with apprehension, but to bring us to make the right choices now. This means to live in a way that will enable us to face those dreadful moments with trust and hope, knowing that the one who will judge us will be the Lord whom we are doing our best to serve today.

In the Eucharistic celebration, therefore, we will pray for the grace to constantly live in the Lord's presence. May He find us doing well, at whatever time He may wish to come and take us with HIM.



The Day of Retribution and Hope

Jerusalem was particularly dear to all the members of the Chosen People. And in the whole city, the dearest part of all was the Temple. This was the pride of every generation; the source of inspiration for every young Israelite; the most sacred place where every pious Jew could experience God's special presence and favor.

For many generations, the Temple had been a source of security and hope because the Lord – or so they thought – would never allow His House to be profaned, and even less to be destroyed. When Jeremiah dared to question that certitude, he was accused of treason and blasphemy (see *Jer 7:3-15;26:2-11*). But the events of history vindicated him: the whole of Jerusalem, including its Temple, were razed to the ground. (See *2 Kgs 25:9*.)

For a time, the people of Judah learned to put their trust in the living and all-holy God, rather than in buildings, no matter how majestic and sacred. They learned that what matters most in the eyes of God is the "heart" of man – what he chooses and what he rejects, what he treasures and what he despises. But soon they forgot it again. Their pride blinded them. As a consequence, they were not able to recognize the time of the Lord's visitation. They rejected the Messiah of God – the terrible crime, in punishment for which the reconstructed Temple and the whole of Jerusalem would be reduced to rubble and ashes. Jesus foresaw it with tearful sadness. He wept over the Holy City. (See *Lk 19:41*.) He wept over all those who fail to set their hearts on the values of God's Kingdom.

Only those who choose and treasure God and His will can count on His protection. They become His living Temple. No lasting harm will touch them, for they belong to Him and He to them.

Even when their earthly Jerusalem – what they hold most dear and sacred on earth – is torn down, they are able to find consolation in the thought that the enduring and more splendid Jerusalem is the one that awaits them in heaven. That is where they belong.

Persecutions of many kinds may strike fiercely those who have vowed their hearts to Christ. As long as they do their best to live up to their commitment, the Lord will never forsake them. *Nothing of what they ARE will be lost*, even when they lose their life. The world may end (and the world does come to an end for millions of humans, every day!), but for those who have set their hearts on loving God and neighbor, and do what is right, the world of God's eternal love will never come to an end.

Such are the truths and fundamental attitudes that should be paramount in us when we reflect on the passing splendor of this earth, and the inevitable end that will come for everything that is temporal, and for everybody. Reckoning time need not be a time of terror. It can be – it should be! – a time of trust, hope, and fulfillment. The time of that wonderful face-to-face encounter with the One that in our earthly days we have perceived only in a vague manner from behind the veil of our limitations and suffering. It is up to us to transform an inevitable end into the beginning of an endless fulfillment.



We Are the Philippines

By now, most of us have seen photographs of the devastation: the vast expanses of flattened buildings, the ground covered in stained and random rubble, with a body part or a child's toy poking out from under a slab or a puddle. We have heard the descriptions of reporters, struggling for words that might, somehow, communicate the smell of rot and waste, or the sensation of watching hundreds and thousands of people--catatonic with grief--struggling to find a patch of ground they recognize or a place where they might rest for just a few moments. Perhaps, you heard and were stunned by the

report of two women giving birth atop a pile of wreckage, stranded by circumstances and this inescapable necessity of life. In such moments, phrases like "the triumph of the human spirit," seem too small and cliché, compared to the reality--a reality beyond words; beyond images; beyond, it seems, even the human imagination.

Often, as we read the reports coming out of the Philippines, or hear the stories on the radio, we try to imagine wandering through the wreckage, looking for potable water or for some marker that would tell us where we are. There, perhaps, is a wall that once was part of the old post office, or there is a sign from the gas station that once stood on this spot. What must it be like to emerge from shelter and see your entire neighborhood gone--trees, houses, neighbors? What is it to feel the oppressive heat and humidity, and wonder who of those we love is lost, never to be found; and what must we do next? Here, in the chill autumn of Montreal, it all seems beyond imagination--like a scene from a movie or an old newsreel--so far away, we cannot quite fathom it, cannot quite grasp the feelings or the fear.

Perhaps, as part of the self-preservation given us by our evolution, nature has limited our ability to enter fully into the pain of others--as though to sense all the suffering of the world would destroy us in waves of anguish and loss. We cannot bear the death of thousands, the sheer magnitude of death and devastation leaves us numb and empty--unable at some point to feel all we encounter or are told. Yet, Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary and the living God, enters into it all: weeping at the side of every mother and crying out in the voice of every father, as they dig through wreckage looking for their child. Jesus, who drank the cup of suffering and death, who knew the murder of innocents by Herod and wept at the tomb of Lazarus, aches with every human loss and enters the anguish of every shattered family--feeling in his own wounds the wounded heart of each woman and man, even while raising each fallen soul to the fullness of life. Even when our imagination protects us from so much suffering, and our nature numbs our hearts, still our faith reminds us that Christ Jesus has rejected all such protection, and in the choice of Incarnation, has embraced every person in her particularity, every soul in his individual suffering. All the loss and pain and anguish of the men and women of this world--in the Philippines or in Syria, among refugees or villagers, with the displaced poor or grieving parents--Jesus brings to the altar of the cross and consecrates as his body and blood.

Thus, it is not merely our sympathy or charity that lead us to embrace the people of the Philippines, but so, too, does our faith. We may not be able to conceive, fully, the pain and devastation of these communities, so distant from us and different in their experiences; yet, we know that their suffering is part of the human story, and so part of the Paschal sacrifice of Christ--part of his passion and death. Thus, we know that drawing close to this suffering means salvation for us, as well. The body of Christ--thirsty and homeless, hungry and anguished with loss--is our body, and today it suffers in the women and men of the Philippines, grieves with the Filipino sisters and brothers who live in our community, and calls us to a response of unwavering love and unremitting generosity.

As part of our response, our Sunday Mass will have a Second Collection and the FCMM will accept donations in cash and in kind (clothing and canned goods) which will be sent to the Philippines to aid the victims. This will be coursed through either the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and/or the Archdiocese of Cebu. We ask everyone to give as we would to our own sister or brother, daughter or son, were they to be facing this disaster--for, in fact, they are. May Christ Jesus, in whom we are united

to all people, bless our gift, as once he blessed the bread and fish offered him on the mountainside, and made them enough to bring life and healing to those who came to him, hungry for food and for love.



Pope - ourri

Catastrophe in the Philippines

Manila, 11. It is becoming clear that the catastrophe of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines has little precedent. According to estimates, 10,000 people were killed in the city of Tacloban alone, which had a population of more than 200,000. However this estimate is incomplete because it does not take into account other regions and, according to sources from Caritas, the number is likely to drastically increase. Hundreds of thousands of people have also been displaced. It is estimated that at least four million people are facing the effects of the typhoon. Many are struggling to survive without shelter, food or drinking water. Various cases of profiteering have already been reported.

Pope Francis' sorrow for the many victims and his solidarity with the rescuers was expressed in a telegram to Benigno Aquino III, President of the Philippines. "Deeply saddened by the destruction and loss of life caused by the super typhoon", the telegram, signed by Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, "His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this storm and its aftermath. He is especially mindful of those who mourn the loss of their loved ones and of those who have lost their homes. In praying for all the people of the Philippines, the Holy Father likewise offers encouragement to the civil authorities and emergency personnel as they assist the victims of this storm. He invokes divine blessings of strength and consolation for the Nation".

The Holy Father also recalled the tragedy in the Philippines yesterday at the Marian prayer of the Angelus when he called for prayers and material aid for those affected and assured them of his closeness. An initial contribution of \$150,000 was sent by the Pope through the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. The Episcopal Conference of Italy has allocated three million euro to the emergency and Caritas has sent another 100,000 euro.



Filipino Cardinal Tagle: Images of destruction caused by typhoon left me speechless

(Vatican Radio) The head of the Catholic church in the Philippines, Cardinal Luis Tagle says every time he sees images of the massive destruction caused by typhoon Haiyan he's left speechless. At the same time, Cardinal Tagle says he is consoled by the love and solidarity that is pouring in from all over the world in the wake of this disaster.

Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, talks frankly about the distress he and others experience when they see the extent of the devastation wrought by typhoon Haiyan in their homeland. "*To be honest with you, I think I'm not alone in saying every time we see images of the destruction we are left speechless.*" "*We are still recovering from the emotional and psychological shock.*"

At the same time, the cardinal says he draws strength "*from the love, the concern, the solidarity pouring in, not just from other parts of the Philippines but from all over world.*" "I'm deeply consoled when I see and hear testimonies of faith, especially from the victims who have lost loved ones. "*They turn to God, saying in God we have hope.*"

Cardinal Tagle goes on to describe how the Catholic Church is coordinating relief programmes to help the victims but says they have not yet heard from some bishops and other Church leaders in the worst affected areas because "*communications are still down.*"

Asked whether he fears there will be people dying because of a lack of food, water and medicines in the aftermath of this huge disaster, the cardinal acknowledges there is "*a real possibility of this*" although the Church, the government, the military and aid organisations are all doing their best to reach out to the victims. However, he says he is "*afraid that poor people living in far flung villages*" in remote areas are at special risk of hunger and thirst in these coming days.

Cardinal Tagle's voice cracks with emotion when he sums up the plight facing his stricken homeland and the wonderful outpouring of solidarity it has engendered: "*We see rubble and ruins everywhere but we see faith, hope and love and it's making us stronger people. I want to thank the Holy Father,*

everyone.... For remembering us and trying their best to reach out, in the name of the victims and the poor, we really thank you”

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR NOVEMBER 2013**

***Suffering Priests.** That priests who experience difficulties may find comfort in their suffering, support in their doubts, and confirmation in their fidelity.

***Latin American Churches.** That as fruit of the continental mission, Latin American Churches may send



Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.

-Psalm 98:5

PLEASE NOTE: In the interest of keeping our sick list current, names will remain on the sick list in the bulletin for a period of one month. After a month, the name will be removed, unless it is requested that the name be kept on the list. Pls. inform the Bulletin Editor by e-mail (jhnaracena@gmail.com) to add, remove or keep a name on the sick list.

Are you an adult thinking more deeply about God? About faith? About things that last? Are you an adult thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you an adult who considers yourself Catholic but has never been baptized? Or been confirmed? Or celebrated First Communion? If so, call Sister Celia at 514- 387 5292 for more information or to find out about the RCIA process.

What every Catholic should know

ABOUT

EVANGELIZATION

BIBLE DISCOVERY

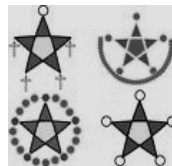
CALLING ADULTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FAITH !!!

Every Sunday @ 9:30 a.m., @ the Church Hall.

The Evangelization and Bible Discovery Seminars are held in our Mission community. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME !**



**November 24, 2013 (Sunday)
2: 00 p.m. @ the Blue Room
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**



The Parents Support Group (PSG) and CLEC cordially invite you for a Parol Making Activity. The event is open for everybody who wants to participate. The price is \$8.00 per participant to cover the cost of the bamboo and a prize for the best parol!

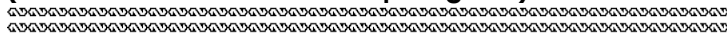
Participants will be provided with one bamboo skeleton to bring home, to decorate with your family in your own creative ways. Please bring your finished product on Sunday, December 15, 2013 @ 9:00 am in the church basement. The parents/children will have a parade of the Parols during the CLEC party. The winners will be announced on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Let's have fun and share our talents and creative skills to everyone!



CHRISTMAS DÉCOR and FLOWERS NEEDED

Once again we are decorating the Church for the Christmas Season and we will need lights, several pots of Christmas Poinsettias and other decorations for the Altar and the Sanctuary. We appeal to your generosity to donate the potted flowers. Please complete the Decor sponsorship form which is available at the FCMM Office. Thank you. **DEADLINE – December 15, 2013**

(All Donations are Tax Receipt eligible).



" All that you see here – the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." - Luke 21:6

Thanks to the effort of a billion-dollar advertising industry, our

material expectations continue to rise year after year. Yet, today, speaking about the end of time, Jesus reminds us that all the material possessions we spend our time and energy to accumulate will become nothing but rubble in the end. What will really matter will be the time we spend on improving our relationship with our God.



OFFERING

Your Offerings for the week ending November 10, 2013 totaled \$ 1,412.00

Thank you for your continuing generosity ! God bless you always!!!



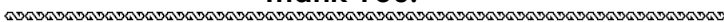
**ELECTIONS
A Special Assembly of FCMM**

parishioners will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2013, after the 11:30 Mass to elect two (2) new Administrators to serve for a term of three years.

Mrs. Juliana Tabamo and Mr. Francis Pandy finish their terms this December. We are most grateful for their service and guidance. Mr Pandy is finishing his first term and may be re-elected. Mrs. Tabamo, on the other hand, is finishing her second term and as such may not be re-elected anymore.

To be eligible for nomination as an FCMM Administrator, one must be a Filipino, over 18 yrs of age, a practicing Catholic and active supporter of the FCMM. The position of FCMM Administrator has a big task in the Mission integral to its existence. This early we ask you to consider people who can help the FCMM .

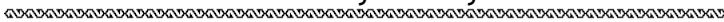
Please help us find good Administrators. Thank You.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God never built a Christian strong enough to carry today's duties and tomorrow's anxieties piled on top of them.

Theodore Ledyard Cuyler



• We join in the Thanksgiving Intentions of:

MR. & MRS. MANNY & LINA LAGASCA, ALVIN VISARIO, ADAM BELTRAN, JACOB BELTRAN.



• Please join in lifting up to the Lord the special intentions of: PAT OCAMPO,

THE GUIUANANON VICTIMS OF TYPHOON YOLANDA.

• Your prayers are also humbly requested for all the sick and suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: FR. FRANCISCO ALVAREZ pme, FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, FR. GERARD LOISELLE, pme, MSGR. ANDRE DESROCHES, SR. LUZ PADERANGA op, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, ANNIE MOJADO, ELECITA ARACENA, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, DAWN DELA PAZ, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, ANTONIO FOZ. May God bring them healing and peace.

• Remember also all of our deceased relatives and friends, especially: MARIQUITA MOJADO, SOTERO MOJADO, DARWIN PASCASIO, PONCIANO LAUS, CIRIACO BANDELA SR., ALEJANDRO BANDOLA SR., MARINA BUENO, MIGUEL BUENO, RAFAEL, ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY and

