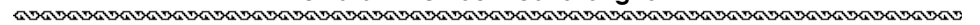




In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that, in order to be numbered among his disciples, we must be prepared to share in his destiny of suffering and trials.

A solid, mature Christian faith accepts both lights and shadows, pleasant and unpleasant events, joys and sorrows; for such, indeed, is the life of man on earth. But over and above these contrasts and unpleasant situations, the man/woman of faith holds with equal and even stronger certainty that God know best and is always in control.

In the Eucharist, let us pray that as we embrace our "cross," we also may become "Christ-like." This will empower us to carry our crosses bravely and face the hardships of life with a stout heart and unwavering faith till we reach the heavenly reward which our hearts long for.



A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP



Today Jesus tells us that a life of discipleship is inevitably characterized by solidarity with him in carrying our daily crosses, even as the Cross is the inseparable symbol of the Master.

The cross, of course, was not what **Jesus** deserved, but dying on it was he price he had come to pay to atone for the sins of all human beings. Such was his mission. That was his destiny. And he did not run away from it, nor did he reject it disdainfully as something unbecoming. He **embraced his cross with a brave heart**, till they became inseparable – one single reality held together by the bond of a love forged in heaven.

Jesus clung to the cross, almost passionately, as something most precious.

As it was dramatically portrayed in the movie "The Passion of the Christ," we see that Jesus continues to carry the heavy cross even after the

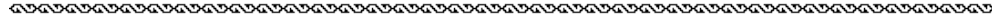
Roman soldiers have forced Simon of Cyrene to relieve him. The two carry the cross together, shoulder to shoulder, arms over each other's shoulder, like friends staggering together, in a climb made smoother by the mutual help. This is how Simon of Cyrene came to be numbered among the disciples of Jesus. He was coming from the fields, . . . coming from nowhere. His association with Jesus and his cross made him "someone." It made

him "great." Thanks to the help he extended to Jesus, Simon's name will be remembered with admiration by all generations till the end of time.

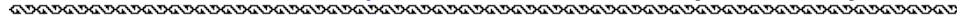
Simon helped Christ carry the cross of mankind's spiritual bankruptcy and, in the process, he came to realize he was carrying his own cross . . . This is what Jesus, in today's Gospel, asks all his prospective disciples to do: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." This is no picnic. It is not something that one does once in a lifetime. It is a burden we are expected to carry every day – "daily," says Jesus! – as sure as the sun rises, for the cross is an essential component of our destiny, too! . . . Such a prospect could be terrifying. Not a few tend to run away from it. They try to avoid suffering at all costs. Thus, their life becomes an endless, almost breathless quest for a happiness that continually eludes them. In the process, these professional "**cross dodgers**" **dig their own graves for they miss their appointment with Christ, the only one who can give direction, meaning, and value to their lives . . .** Very different from this is the life of a real disciple. To be sure, he/she does not seek suffering under the compulsion of an enslaving masochism, for he/she knows that the final destiny of mankind is not suffering but happiness.

At the same time, a disciple **does not shun away from suffering as if it were the worst enemy**. He/she knows that the real enemy is not suffering but **SIN**. That, and only that, is **the ugly thing a disciple avoids at all costs**. But this can be attained only by **staying close to Jesus, as close as true friends can be, rain or shine, come what may!** When the cross falls on any of them, they still stick together, sharing its burden as they share the joy of companionship, ready to die together. Ready to die for each other. That's genuine devotion. That's cross-proof friendship. That's how redemption becomes the wonderful reality in which God's mercy buttresses our misery, and He and us become one new reality bonded inseparably by mutual love. This is how human life becomes a journey to eternal life; the journey of conversion, offering and reparation. In this journey, **the crosses which we encounter become the bridges that enable us to span crevasses and scale mountains. And this because we constantly do our best not only to live in imitation of Jesus, but also to suffer in union with him.**

Jess P. Balon



JOIN A PILGRIMAGE to THE POOR CLARES OF SHERBROOKE , THE SACRED HEART SANCUARY IN BEAUVOIR and THE ABBEY OF SAINT- BENOIT-DU-LAC on SATURDAY, JULY 13. 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. organized by the OUR LADY OF THE PHILIPPINES FRATERNITY (Secular Franciscan Order).
COST: \$ 35.00 / person (COACH TRANSPORTATION)
RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW ! Contact Linda Ballares (514 737 1424) linda.caldito@yahoo.ca or Mercia Suarez (514 351 8771)



"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Luke

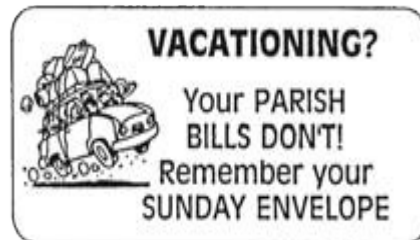
9:23

We are not very good at "denying ourselves" in this society. Our current economic situation is evidence of what happens when people think they can have everything they want. Jesus calls us to set our own personal "wants" aside so that we have the resources to follow Him instead.



Your Offerings for the week ending June 16, 2013 totaled **\$ 2,006. 00**

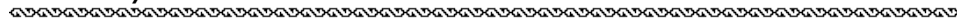
Thank you for your continuing generosity !
 God bless you always !



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:

As we begin the more relaxed season of summer, please remember that our parish, The Notre-Dame-des-Philippines Catholic Mission ,still depends on your weekly generosity to meet everyday expenses. Please remember to "make up" your weekly gift to our parish when you are away at your "summer home" or on a much deserved vacation. The FCMM doesn't take a vacation and we are called upon to meet our financial obligations even during the summer.

Thanks for you assistance each week!

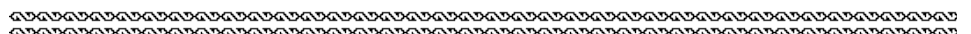


THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Tomorrow, June 24th, we will celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. John's life from birth to death was tied into Jesus' life. Christ is the "bookends" for John's life; may He be our own too.



St. John, the Baptist, PRAY FOR US !





St John the Baptist is also the patron saint of French Canadians and of the province of Québec. Québec's *Fête Nationale* (National Holiday) on St-Jean-Baptiste's Day sees the largest parade of the year in Montreal. St Jean Baptiste is honoured with festivals, bonfires, costuming and parties. Up until the late 1960s, all work stopped for a few days prior, as each parish prepared a procession with a child dressed as a young St Jean, usually holding a lamb. The traditional meal at the St Jean is a type of chicken pot pie, and caramel eaten in front of the bonfires. The religious elements have nowadays diminished in importance. At the end of the 70s, the Fête took a political twist. Leaders of separatist parties join the festivities and the issue of Québec independence becomes central. More recently, after the 1995 referendum, the event adapts itself once more to the new realities of Québec. Members of Québec's many ethnic groups join the celebrations and the Saint-Jean parade is now a wonderful mix of Caribbean music, of Scottish bagpipes and of traditional Québécois melodies. Just like so many times in the past, this millennia-old celebration has evolved just like the people who's unique identity it celebrates.

BONNE FÊTE QUÉBEC! BONNE FÊTE QUÉBÉCOIS ET QUÉBÉCOISES!



- 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:
RHEA FOZ, MR. & MRS. NELSON ALEJANDRO, LUIGI & AGNES SAIN, GREGORIO PADIDA, MR. & MRS. HENRY UMALI, OLP SECULAR FRANCISCANS, ANNIE MOJADO, LUCILLE MANIGAO, MANNY & LINA LAGASCA, JEROME

MALACAS.



- Your prayers are 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 LOISELLS, pme, 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, IKE OSDON, TERESITA JALEA, WILFREDO DARIO, JOHN NICHOLAS MEJIA, TERESITA PLAMENCO, OLIVER MARTINEZ, PATRIA FEDERIZO, ANTONIO FOZ, NORMA FOZ, ALICIA GINES, CECILIA CEÑAL, LEONIDAS ORBITA SIMBULAN, DERRICK SOTELO, JEFFORD SAMPANG, LUIS SILVERA, OFELIA SUBONG, ROGELIO MANTARING, ROBERT GARDINER.
 May God bring them healing and peace.

- Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially **RUBEN BARLIZO, EDUARDO CAMABALIZA, AGUSTIN AQUINO SR., MARIA ANTONIO, RAMON RUIZ, ARTURO VILLANUEVA JR., ESTER GALAN, CIELO SUIZA, ANTONIO MISTICA, RITA MASSE GUILBAULT, MARIANO & JUANA TADEO, CRISOSTOMO DARIO, , 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Sacrifice of the Mass contains within it all of the graces of God and all that man can do to worship Him. Stop by or call the FCMM office (514 – 387 5292) during normal business hours and ask how you can have a Mass offered for your intention.



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, RELATIVES, and FRIENDS**, offered by **NOEMI TUVIDA.**

