

17 October 2010
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



On this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time the Church invites us to reflect on the power of persevering prayer. Faith can move mountains, but prayer can move the heart of God. But for prayer to produce such a wonderful effect, it must be rooted in humble faith, that is, in the sincere conviction that we are in God's hands and that He loves us immensely, in spite of our unworthiness.

If we have this proper disposition of heart, we will avoid the two aberrations of wanting to impose our will on God, or of giving up praying if our requests are not granted immediately. Our prayer must always be patterned after that of Jesus and end with the petition: "May your will, not mine, be done!"



The Upside-Down Parable

Through his parables Jesus disturbed the comfortable and comforted the disturbed. Parables are stories that would seem to point to an obvious conclusion, but then jolt us by an unexpected ending. Through parables,



Jesus upsets us by challenging conventional wisdom. The parable in today's gospel is particularly intriguing as it is itself capable of being turned upside-down. It is introduced as a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. The normal interpretation is to say that as

the unjust judge heard the widow because of her persistence, and not because of the merits of her case, so

too God will hear us if we persist in our requests. We find a strong endorsement in the story for our novenas and our prayers of repeated petition.

But is it not a bit strange to identify God with the unjust judge: to identify God with someone who has no concern for justice? Is it not strange to promote an understanding that petition is answered because of nagging God into action without any concern for the content of the petition itself? So, he would have us turn the parable upside-down and interpret it in this way.

We ourselves are the unjust judge who neither fear God or respect people. We are dominated by our egos and generally looking for what is in it for us. We are really stubborn in our self seeking. But God is persistent in love for us. God is the hound of heaven who wears us down, like the widow, by persistently pursuing us. Eventually, we yield and let God enter our lives and guide us to do the right thing. In this interpretation we see God as persistent in trying to break down our defenses. We see prayer as allowing this pursuing God to enter our lives and challenge us to change our self destructive behavior.

This second interpretation gives us a better picture of who God is and of what prayer is. In this interpretation God is the one who takes initiative. It is an example of what the poet, Samuel Crossman, calls "Love to the loveless shown, That they might lovely be." The spiritual life begins with God's gracious gift. This gift often comes in strange wrappings. Sometimes it comes in a sermon or a religious book. More often it comes through a difficulty, failure, sickness or maybe a widow that comes to us looking for help. The gift comes from a God who is humble, who knows truth but who does not coerce us into accepting him or his gift.

To pray continually then and to never lose heart is just to be in an attitude of openness. It is having no predetermined demands to make on God but to be continually ready, alert, and listening to the demands that God may be making on us.



The Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal community warmly welcomes *the officers and members of Filipino Civic Associations in Montreal and especially THE PHILIPPINE BENEVOLENT AND SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY OF QUEBEC* into our parish family today. We sincerely hope that you feel at home and among friends. If you are seeking a church home, we will gladly welcome you. Let us know and we will be in touch.

Welcome!



Upcoming Events



- **THE SEARCH for the 2010 FCMM KING and QUEEN OF ANGELS**

Our major fund-raising project for the year is nearing its close. The Last Canvassing will be held on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**. Please don't hesitate to support any of the candidates as you are supporting our Filipino Church in Montreal. Your \$2.00 /ballot donation will go a long way.

You may now begin remitting your donations to the candidates' Parents/ Business Managers. And remember that **Tax - deductible receipts** will be issued at the end of the year to those who will contribute **\$20.00 or more**.



- **FCMM PRE- HALLOWEEN PARTY** to coincide with the FINAL CANVASSING of the 2010 FCMM King and Queen of Angels Search on Saturday, October 30, 6pm. Come in your Halloween Attire and win a prize. Entrance \$ 5.00.

- **THE MASS OF COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M. ALL SOULS' DAY MASS ENVELOPES where you can write the names of **ALL** your beloved dead to be included in the '*Responso*' blessing during the Mass are now available at the FCMM OFFICE. Please be reminded that there is a \$20.00 minimum donation per envelope. THANK YOU.



Through the kindness of the sponsors that appear at the back page of this sheet, this bulletin is furnished to the FCMM Community without charge! We feel the sponsors get good coverage with their ads, and at a relatively low cost — and we urge you to patronize them. Once again, the time has come to renew your support for the bulletin. The Printers have done a fine job in publishing our weekly bulletin and we hope our present sponsors renew their ads. Also, if others are interested, please call Mrs. Fe Elamparo (514- 738 1683) or the FCMM Office (514- 387 - 5292)



Prayer:

Don't give God instructions—just report for duty!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Next Week is World Mission Sunday.

Every parish across the world will celebrate World Mission Sunday next week. It is a global sign of the Universal Church and mission. Your prayers and donations will help support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is beginning, where it is new. World Mission Sunday is our chance to assist Catholic Communities throughout the world become self sufficient and flourish. By sharing the

gift of faith we can bring hope and love to those who need it most.

Next Sunday, October 24, there will be a special Second Collection for the Propagation of the Faith.

Please prepare for it and be generous. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Do you have a deceased relative for whom you wish all the Grace of God; or perhaps a dear friend who could use a bit of divine assistance in their lives, or simply if you have reason to offer thanksgiving for a new-born son, daughter, God-child, niece, nephew or the like? Well 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.

STEWARDSHIP



The concept of Christian Stewardship giving is the very essence of Church support. Each of us should return to the Lord a portion of our blessings so that the Church may continue to grow and

provide a spiritual haven for the faithful. A faithful steward manages his Time, Talents, and Treasury for the glory of God and His Church.

We continuously give thanks to God that we have realized our dream of having our own Church building. However, this entails an increase in our expenses and there is a need to have a number of our stewards increasing their commitment to the Church. Please consider increasing your Stewardship obligation in accordance with the blessings you receive from God.

Contributions to assist in our ministry have increased each year and are a definite sign of YOUR recognition that God is blessing you. Our Holy Church emphasizes the truth found in Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition that we must give cheerfully and without reluctance to the sacred work of God's Holy Church.

Thank you for your continuing generosity !

WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION TO MY CHURCH?

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating the equivalent of your "First Hour of Work" each week to the Lord.



The usual hospitality, acknowledgment, and stewardship corners of our news bulletin will be back next issue. Thanks !



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF RITA MOLINA** and **ALL DECEASED LEGION OF MARY MEMBERS** and **FOR PERSONAL INTENTIONS** offered by *Manny and Lina Lagasca* .
