



NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION

MONTREAL, CANADA

18 August 2013 -

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



Life is full of choices. The most fundamental one is the choice between good and evil, between God and sin. We Christians are among those who have chosen Christ and all that he stands for.

This choice is not just for a moment or a day. It is meant to be for ever. This is what makes it even more demanding and challenging for we are continually bombarded by the temptation to give up or water down the demands of the Gospel. Sometimes we may tend to compromise and walk the easier road followed by the immense crowd of those who do not care about principles and readily settle for what is easier. Jesus never followed such a path even though that meant for him dying on the cross. If we are real disciples, our choice cannot be different from his.

In the Eucharist, let us ask the Lord for the grace to make the right choices and to live by them.

CHOICES THAT MATTER

In an era characterized by pluralism and relativism, many hold that one choice is as good as another, and that all depends on who chooses what and why. One can belong to one party or another, prefer one political system or another, or root for one team or another. One feels free to choose a certain brand of car, or a computer, or what to wear, and so on . . . It would seem that all choices are just a matter of personal preference and perception.



But there are choices so opposed to each other and whose consequences are so far-reaching, that one could hardly say that they can be equally good. Working for the poor or exploiting them cannot be two equally good choices. Promoting peace or making money by arms trade cannot be equally acceptable. Caring for the environment and trying to use the energies of the planet responsibly cannot be put on an equal footing with the selfish and irresponsible exploitation of the earth's natural resources . . .

There are, indeed, choices that are right and others that cannot be equally right; choices that build up and choices that destroy. These are the basic and "vital choices" that characterize a person because they reveal the principles on which individuals base their lives.

Jesus Christ came to propose the right "vital choices" that build up both individuals and societies. They are the "CHOICES OF THE KINGDOM" – the choices that are rooted in the LOVE for God and neighbor. As a consequence, they always entail the preference for what is GOOD, TRUE, HONEST, FAIR, POSITIVE, and LIFE-GIVING.

These are the choices that Christ himself made and which characterized his life.

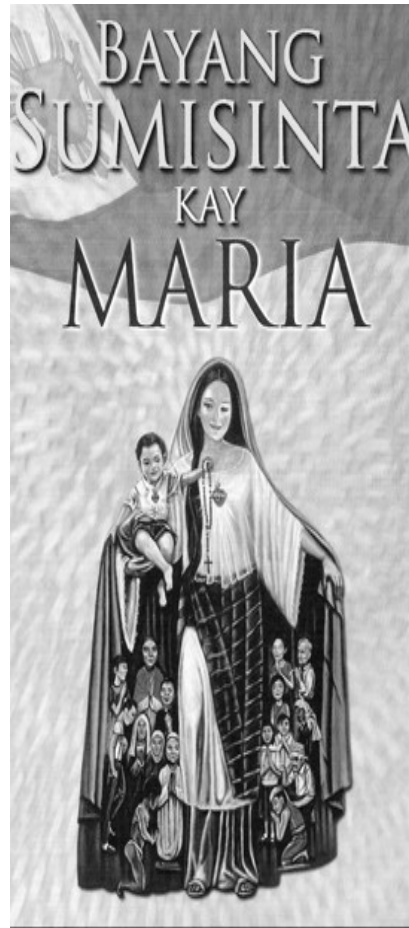
They are enshrined in the "Sermon on the Mount" and exemplified in his daily life – the way he related to God the Father both in prayer and in always seeking to do His will; the way he related to people in an attitude of respect, concern for their good and spirit of service unto death. This set of choices includes the acceptance of the cross, not for its own sake, but as part of a wider plan that has its origin and completion in God.

A follower of Christ is one that makes the same choices with clarity of vision, generosity, and perseverance. To choose them is to choose Christ. To choose Christ is to choose them. Hence, they characterize his/ her life as "Christian" because they make him/her "Christ-like." And to that extent, these choices make a person different from those that have made opposite choices. To that extent, these choices create divisions and even oppositions.

Jesus Christ experienced the challenge posed by such opposition in the temptations that he endured. He overcame them by sticking to his basic choice to do the Father's will at all costs. He experienced that challenge also in his relationship with people, whatever category they belonged to. While being open to all and sincerely seeking the salvation of all, he accepted the fact that some might choose to reject him, oppose him, betray him, and even put him to death. He accepted the mystery of human freedom even in its extreme consequences: the possibility of choosing death rather than life; hatred, rather than love.

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus warns his disciples to be prepared to make the same choices and not to be afraid of the consequences, even when these entail separation from other members of one's family or circle of friends. There are values that are higher than family ties and, in the end, they amply compensate for the loss and separation they may cause.

WORD and LIFE PUBLICATIONS



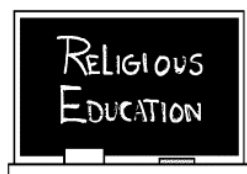
The Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal, following in the steps of our brothers and sisters in the Philippines, invites all Filipino Faithful on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013, at 3:00 p.m.** to a **Special Eucharistic Celebration** and **Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, followed by an out-door procession.

This solemn act of entrustment and consecration is part of our Year of Faith observance and also part of the preparation for the 2014 celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Canonical Installation of the Notre-Dame-des-Philippines Catholic Mission of Montreal. The consecration desires that under the banner of Mary all Filipinos will be one and in peace in faith and love...

Let September 8, 2013, be our very special day with our Blessed Mother, our very own Mother's Day, when we all come together under her mantle of care and protection, of comfort and consolation, of love and peace, and be renewed in our faith in Jesus Christ, sent to us by the Father through the Holy Spirit. We will do this confident that we are **Pueblo Amante de Maria, Isang Bayang Sumisinta Kay Maria.**

❖ **FAITH FIRST 2013-2014 RENROLLMENT:**
Begins September 1, 2013 10:00 a.m.
@ the Church Hall

Parents who would like to enroll their children in the CLEC for the coming school year must signify their interest by registering their child(ren) with the Catechetical Ministry.



For more information, please call the FCMM Office (514- 387-5292



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **REY and LINDA BALLARES**.



"Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Luke 12:51

Living a stewardship lifestyle means stepping out of our comfort zone when needed. Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves, stay in the middle of the road. In today's world we are called to be informed and take a stance for life, marriage and religious liberty.



Your Offerings for the week ending August 11, 2013 totaled, \$ 1, 222. 00

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



continuing



- 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:
MAYA FOZ, LEVY.

**IN ALL THINGS
GIVE THANKS**

**OUR
prayer
concerns**



- 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 LOISELLE, 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, ANTONIO FOZ, May God bring them healing and peace.

- Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially **EFREN MEDEL, CHRISTOPHER GARCIA, MARIANO TADEO, LUZ PADIDA, JUAN MANINGAS, ZENAIDA ARAZA, FELECITA RODRIGUEZ, EUFEMIA ADUCAYEN SECENIO ANCHETA, 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

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.

Words of Wisdom: Where There Is . . .

Where there is faith, there is love.
Where there is love, there is peace.
Where there is peace, there is God.
Where there is God, there is no need.



[Author unknown]