



NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION

MONTREAL, CANADA

25 August 2013

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



Modern psychology gives great importance to “feeling good” and “loving one’s self” as a precondition to love others. But in today’s Gospel passage Jesus warns us that there is no easy way to be his disciples as he declares that the Kingdom of God can be “accessed” only through a “narrow gate.”

Obviously, Jesus is not speaking of a material gate but of the “narrow gate” of daily faithfulness to one’s duties and the loyal observance of God’s law in all circumstances of life.

That is what makes life challenging, but that is also the only way that leads to eternal happiness in heaven.

In this Eucharist, let us ask for the grace to have the moral strength to choose the “narrow gate” of self-denial, in preference to the wide gate of self-indulgence and other forms of self-gratification.

FOR THE BRAVE AND THE GENEROUS ONLY



The question posed by Jesus’ interviewer sounded almost impertinent, in its superficial curiosity: “Will only a few people be saved?” Clearly, the interviewer was interested in numbers, in statistics . . . And he was missing the whole point, for the

answer – had it ever come – would not have made him a better person. Jesus did not answer the idle question but a more important one which the man had not asked, “How can we reach salvation?” Jesus’ answer brought the interviewer and all the listeners to the heart of the matter: what one should do in order to enjoy God’s salvation. And the answer was: **“Try to enter through the narrow door.”**

Both the question and the answer are as relevant today as they were in the time of Jesus. We know and firmly believe that God “wants all men to be saved and come to know the truth” (1 Tim 2:4). He created mankind just for this. To achieve such a purpose, **He “gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).**

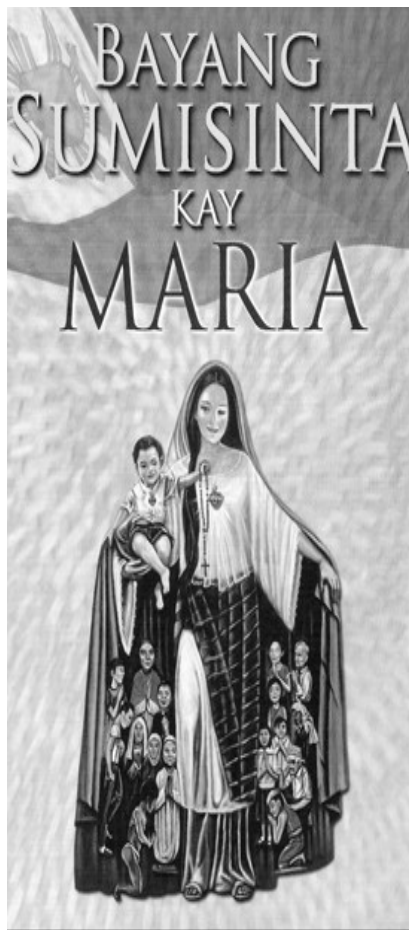
God has, indeed, an immense heart, capable of welcoming and making happy billions of human beings. But He also expects that each should do his/her part. There is a contribution to be made, not to “buy” heaven, but to show that we are grateful to the Lord for it, and are eager to enter it. Trying to enter through the “narrow door” is our modest counterpart.

But what is this mysterious “narrow door”? **It is a disposition of humility, self-denial, detachment, generosity, forgiveness, purity, honesty, truthfulness, piety . . . in a word, loving obedience to God’s commandments, no matter what the cost.** These are the conditions that make the road to life “narrow.” But they are also, at the same time, **the qualities/virtues which keep a person free from the fettering and cumbersome burden of the opposite vices and sins.**

The “narrow door” is a challenge to choose what is right in preference to what is pleasant or convenient. It is the courage to do God’s will rather than ours. Those who are unable to pass it are people who lock themselves out because they lack the determination to get rid of all that is incompatible with God’s presence and the holiness of His Kingdom. This “narrow door” is not an unpleasant surprise that we will find only at the conclusion of the journey of our lives. It is a *daily reality*, a challenge with which we have to reckon more than once every day. The bliss it

leads to will be enjoyed only by those who are ready to leave behind everything the world holds dear. This sounds like a gamble. But it's a gamble worth trying. Christ was the first who chose to enter through the narrow door. And he never regretted it! (See Heb 12:2.)

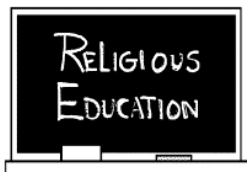
WORD and LIFE PUBLICATIONS



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 ENROLLMENT:
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



"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." Luke 13:30

Our standards in our society are so different from God's standards. We often rate or rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards.

Your Offerings for the week ending August 18, 2013 totaled,
\$ 1,210.00



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



continuing



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



- 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:
FLORA TADEO, MR. & MRS. ERIC JASMIN and FAMILY, MICAHIEL LOCQUIAO, ZENAIDA AQUINO-JAMON



- 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, JOSEFINA & ARACELI GARCIA**, May God bring them healing and peace.
- Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially **DARIO DUHAYLUNGSOD, CONRADO ARACENA JR., ZENAIDA ARAZA, INNOCENTA OLARTE, WARTHER ESPANOLA, MARIQUITA MOJADO, 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.

Words of Wisdom: Guidance



When I meditated on the word GUIDANCE, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word GUIDANCE. When I saw "G," I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i." "God, "u" and "i" dance."! God, you, and I dance. This statement is what guidance means to me. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for

you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you and your family on this day and everyday. May you abide in Him as He abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting Him to lead and to guide you through each season of your life. This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached. If God has done anything for you in your life, please share this message with someone else, for prayer is one of the best gifts we can receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards; so lets continue to pray for one another. God, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and e-mail buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power of the Holy Spirit. I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace.

We Hope You Dance!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.[Author unknown]
