



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

03 March 2013 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

God's patience and goodness with us during this Lenten journey should not be taken to mean that there is nothing to change in our behavior. It can only mean that the Lord, in His patient love for us, is waiting for us to produce the fruits of a sincere and lasting conversion.

We should not think that conversion consists only in avoiding sin. It is also moving away from doing little for the Lord, to doing as much as we can for the building of the Kingdom and for our own sanctification.

Let our participation in the Eucharistic celebration be a renewal of our commitment to bear fruits of holiness through the fulfillment of our duties.



The Call to Produce Abundant Fruit

Fig trees planted in vineyards receive preferential treatment – well-filled soil, good manure, protection from vandals and animals. If for one year they do not bear fruit, they are without excuse. The decision of the owner of the vineyard in the Gospel to have the barren fig tree cut down is more than justified. Its performance had definitely been disappointing. (See Lk 13:7.)

But barrenness is not a defect that can be found only in trees. It can also be found in people. *Spiritual and moral barrenness* means the absence of those dispositions and actions which God has a right to expect from us. In spite of the much care and love we have received from Him, our response is often disappointing. In most cases, it is not a matter of laziness. We are very active. We do many things. We may even give the impression that we are achieving a lot . . . Many of our actions, however, are just like pompous leaves which suck most of our vital energies. We are constantly in danger of forgetting that what matters is *not how many things* we do, but rather, *WHAT* we do, *HOW* and *WHY* we do it. We are expected to bear fruits of holiness by doing our duty to the best of our ability and out of love for God.

The Lord, of course, is usually patient. But His patience should not be taken to mean that He is either indifferent to what we do, or that He has become unable to check our misbehavior. It simply means that, in His love, and thanks to the intercession of Jesus, He gives us another chance. But a day will come when we will have to account even for these additional signs of love.

These are days of grace; days for an honest evaluation of our performance in the light of God's generosity and of His expectation. If we discover that our life is so full of "leaves" but lacks the fruits of piety, gratitude, honesty, generosity, purity, sense of responsibility, faith, hope, love . . . we have only one thing to do:

UNDERGO CONVERSION and REFORM. In the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus uses this word twice, both as an exhortation and as a warning. (See vv. 3 and 5.)

But he does more than just exhort and warn us. Not only does he give the warning and intercede for us with the Father, but he also *offers us his help* to rid us from our barrenness. His *teaching*, his *example*, his *grace* will produce the miracle, if only we allow him to work in us and cooperate with him.

This might be our last chance to finally start producing the long awaited fruits which will delight our divine Master. They will delight our very selves in the first place.

WORD and LIFE PUBLICATIONS

FAST ✚ PRAY ✚ SHARE ✚ FAST ✚ PRAY ✚ SHARE



PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

on **SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013 @ 2:00 P.M.**
HOSTS: **K of C and FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**



On Saturday, March 9, before going to sleep, don't forget to SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD ! DST starts on Sunday !



YEAR 2012 TAX RECEIPTS are available for pick-up. For inquiries, please call the FCMM Office during regular working hours (514 -3875292)



EASTER FLOWERS: What a beautiful way of remembering a loved one by donating the Easter Flowers that will adorn the sanctuary of the FCMM throughout the Easter Season !

DONATION: One pot of Orchids/ Hydrangea- \$ 30.00
One pot of Easter Lilies - \$25.00
One pot of Green Plant - \$ 25.00

SPONSOR a plant in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of the living. Stop by at the FCMM Office and complete a flower/ plant form with your donation. A card bearing your intention will then be displayed on a plant or flower during Easter. In addition, a listing of the names of those remembered will be published in the Bulletin for the duration of this blessed season. **YOUR DONATION IS TAX RECEIPT ELIGIBLE !** Hurry ! Limited Quantity! Deadline is on Friday, March 22.

The Holy Father brought the tender heart of a pastor, the incisive mind of a scholar and the confidence of a soul united with His God in all he did. His resignation is but another sign of his great care for the Church. We are sad that he will be resigning but grateful for his eight years of selfless leadership as successor of St. Peter. The occasion of his resignation stands as an important moment in our lives as citizens of the world. Our experience impels us to thank God for the gift of Pope Benedict. Our hope impels us to pray that the College of Cardinals under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit choose a worthy successor to meet the challenges present in today's world.

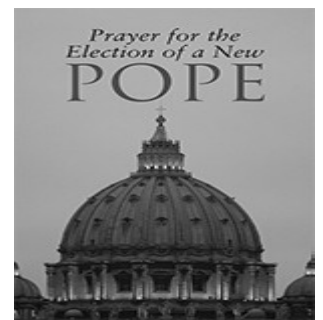


Prayer for POPE BENEDICT XVI

O God, true shepherd of all the faithful, look with kindness on your servant Pope Benedict XVI, whom you set as head and shepherd of Your Church. We give you thanks for your grace at work in him as he had led us by word and example: in his teaching, in his prayer and in his great love.

Grant him your strength in frailty, comfort in sorrow, and serenity amid the trials of this world; and guide your Church, built on the rock of Peter, with the power of your Spirit as we continue on the path that leads to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7

Are we like the barren fig tree?
What does God find when He searches for the fruits which we have given back?



Your Offerings for the week ending February 24, 2013 totaled \$ 1, 819. 00

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



!

KWARESMA 2013 sa FCMM



The Stations of the Cross is being prayed on **each Friday** during Lent at **6:00 p.m.** This typically Lenten devotion comes **highly recommended** by the Saints, many of whom prayed the Stations daily! Come and join us.



reconciliation.

PENANCE SERVICE: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a very meaningful way to celebrate Lent. A COMMUNAL Celebration of Penance will be held on **Sunday, March 17th before the 11:30 a.m. Mass.** Please come earlier than usual and join us as we pray together for



Everybody is welcome !

PABASA NG SAMBAYANAN – Starting **Saturday, March 10, until Thursday, March 21,** we will have the **PABASA** here at the FCMM. **Saturday & Sunday (Mar. 10 & 11 @ 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Monday – Thursday @ 6:00 – 10: 00p.m.)** This is a beautiful Filipino Lenten tradition of chanting in Pilipino verses our Salvation History. Join us!



ANOINTING OF THE SICK – A Special Mass with the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be held on **Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** This Sacrament is for the living who are seriously/chronically ill with the purpose of restoring physical health to the person. For assistance and more info., all the FCMM Office (514- 387- 5292)



- ❖ 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:
DONG LAUS and FAMILY.



❖ Your prayers are humbly requested for all the sick and suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: **FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, SR. ELIZABETH RELACION mic, 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.** May God bring them healing and peace.

❖ Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially **ENRIQUE TABLANDA, EMILIA FOZ, ANTONINA, LETICIA and WINNIFRED GONZALES,**

GEORGE LAFONTAINE, MARGARITA ABASTA, PORFERIO MANGUBAT, ADORACION PADUA , 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

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 SPECIAL INTENTIONS** offered by **ARNOLD and CONNIE UNABIA**.

