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**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

## The Eucharist: Sacrament of Love

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
29 July 2018

2 Kgs 4:42-44  
Eph 4:1-6  
Jn 6:1-15

Starting from today and over the next four Sundays, the gospel readings are from John 6 which draws our attention to the Multiplication of the Loaves (today's gospel) and Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse. In the Discourse, Jesus emphasised the need to partake of his Body and Blood in order to have eternal life, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him...this is the bread that came down from heaven...whoever eats this bread will live forever" (Jn 6:56,58).

Many of us are aware that the miraculous Multiplication of the Loaves in today's gospel not only revealed Jesus' profound compassion for the crowds who had sought him out for healing. More significantly, this miracle foreshadowed the Last Supper where Jesus took bread, gave thanks and gave them out to his disciples (cf Jn 6:11). We know by now that the Last Supper meal Jesus shared with his disciples was the very first Eucharist or Holy Mass. At Mass, we continue to hear the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper which changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body...Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood..." (Mk 14:22-26).

*"There is one Body,  
one Spirit, just as you  
were all called into one  
and the same hope...  
There is one Lord, one  
faith, one baptism, and  
one God who is Father  
of all..." (Eph 4:4-6)*



To underscore that it has been God's plan from the very beginning to renew, strengthen and draw man to himself through the Body and Blood of his Son, four of the First Readings over these five Sundays are also about miraculous feedings (Elisha's 20 barley loaves which fed 100 people; Manna from heaven; Elijah's miraculous scone from an angel; Wisdom's feast of bread and wine to overcome ignorance and folly).

The Second Reading over these Sundays are all taken from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians – the epistle on ecclesiology or what it means to be a church – the New People of God or New Israel. This week's reading reminds us that God's purpose in feeding us with the sacred food of his Son's body is to restore the unity lost by Adam's sin. St. Paul "implores" all the baptised to strive towards seven aspects of this unity: "...one Body, one Spirit...one and the same hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all" (Eph 4:4-6).

Today's Psalm highlights the price paid by God the Father to give this Bread of

Eternal Life to us. In thanking God for opening wide his hand and granting man's desires (Ps 144:16), the Psalmist is foreshadowing Christ's willing offering of himself on the cross as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explains, "...for Christians, arms extended also have a christological meaning. They remind us of the extended arms of Christ on the Cross...In the arms of Christ, stretched out on the Cross, Christians see a two-fold meaning... this gesture is the radical form of worship, the unity of his human will with the will of the Father, but at the same time, these arms are opened toward us – they are the wide embrace by which Christ wants to draw us to himself. Worship of God and love of neighbor...coincide in this gesture" (*The Spirit of the Liturgy*, p205).

Hence, St Paul reminds us today that we must live the Eucharist by growing in love, "Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience" (Eph 4:2). As we meditate more deeply on the Eucharist over the next four Sundays, may we also grow in our desire for this 'sacrament of love...sign of unity... bond of charity" (CCC 1323).

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### CANTEEN

The Wardens will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by and give them some support!

### HOLY HOUR

Come spend time with our Lord at Holy Hour, this **Thu 2 Aug, 8.30pm** in the main church.



### FEAST OF ASSUMPTION 15 AUG - DAY OF OBLIGATION

#### Mass on 14th (Tue)

8pm (no 6.30pm Mass)

#### Masses on 15th (Wed)

6.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm

### COMMON SENSE PARENTING WORKSHOP

Managing kids at any age can be done with the right parenting skills. Sign up for Common Sense Parenting and discover how conscious understanding can work between you and your kids. Hurry! Spaces are limited.

**When:** Sat, 18 Aug, 25 Aug, 1 Sep

**Time:** 9am - 1pm

**Where:** SFX Room (2nd Level, Parish Centre)

To register, call Sandy at 9002 4631 **before 1 Aug.**

### CHARISMATIC LISS

The next session is Mon, 30 Jul at 8pm, 2nd Level, Parish Hall. The session begins with praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Jesus is the Lord of your life' by Edmund Ang.

## PARISH RENOVATION FUNDRAISING

This weekend, we officially begin our efforts to raise \$2.3 million in order to partially fund the much needed renovations to our church facilities. During Mass this weekend, each parishioner will be given two forms and an envelope. The first form tells us how you wish to contribute. The second form is an application for GIRO payments, if you wish to use that method to contribute. The envelope is marked to "SFX Renovation Fund". Once you have completed the forms, as appropriate, please seal the forms into the envelope, together with your contribution, and return it to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can drop the envelope into any of the donation boxes in church. As long as your contribution is sealed in the envelope marked "SFX Renovation Fund", it will go towards the stated purpose.

We will also begin to organise fundraising activities to build community spirit and communion towards our renovation programme. Those who wish to organise any fundraising activities should contact Thud Chee, 9632 3489 or Lei Nore, 9649 4061 or email [renofund@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:renofund@sfxchurch.sg), before commencing any activities.

Lastly, as we have not sought permission from the Commission of Charities to raise funds publicly, please note that all fundraising activities are confined to within the SFX Church community and friends only.



## LUNCHTIME WEEKDAY EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Catholic Prayer Society invites you to celebrate the Eucharist with the Catholic community at our seven centres:

**Grand Hyatt Hotel (Orchard)** Fri 12.40pm, 1.20pm

**SGH Campus (Outram)** Wed 12.15pm

**TPI Building (Raffles Place)** Wed, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1.15pm

**Singapore Conference Hall (Shenton Way)** Fri 12.20pm, 1.20pm

**Suntec Convention Centre** Tue 12.15pm, 1.15pm

**UE Convention Centre (Changi Business Park)** Wed 12.15pm

**Near Jurong East MRT** Fri 12.15pm

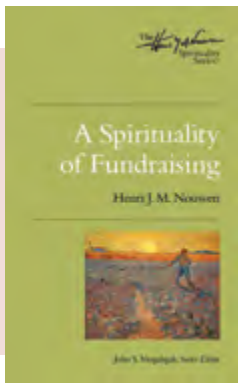
For details of the mass schedules, please refer to the CPS website ([www.cps.org.sg](http://www.cps.org.sg)).

## MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS

In need of some healing prayers? Come join us on Sat 4 Aug at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church). All are welcome and no registration is needed. Praise and Worship will start at 2pm. From 2.20 - 4pm, Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran, followed by prayers for healing.

For enquiries, please email [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com) or call 9747 2467. This is organised by Praise@Work and supported by SACCRE.





# Spirituality of Fundraising

As SFX Church commence fundraising efforts for our much-needed renovations, here are some reflections extracted from the book "A Spirituality of Fundraising" by Henri Nouwen, for all of us to ponder over.

## 1. Building the Kingdom of God on Earth

Having set a vision to build an inclusive, vibrant and missionary church, both fundraising and the giving of our resources to realise this vision is a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing and participating in the vision and mission of our church. Contributing our resources to the renovation fund enables us to invest ourselves into the building of God's kingdom on earth. Drawn together by God in this manner, we will experience an interior conversion in the way we see and think about our parish and how we act within it. Every act or contribution, small or large, given in love, will help. What we give in love, God can grow into something beyond our imagination.

*The love and care that we show for each other within our community will infectiously draw others into the family of God.*



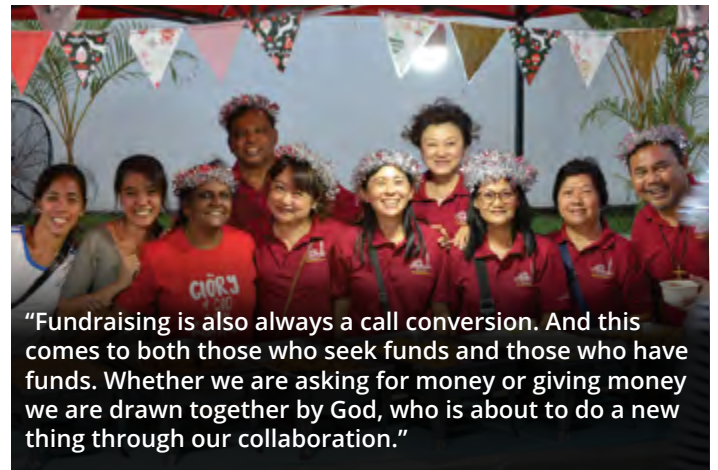
"Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity. It is a confident, joyful and hope-filled expression of ministry. In ministering to each other, each from the riches that he or she possesses, we work together for the full coming of God's Kingdom."

## 2. Spiritual Communion

Fundraising and giving our resources are a way of communion with God and his church in its mission to spread the gospel and win souls for heaven. Getting involved in fundraising activities will foster new friendships in Christ and build stronger community bonds and spirit. Then the love and care that we show for each other within our community will infectiously

*Getting involved in fundraising activities will foster new friendships in Christ and build stronger community bonds and spirit.*

draw others into the family of God. When we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love in our church, our efforts can go beyond our own existence.



"Fundraising is also always a call conversion. And this comes to both those who seek funds and those who have funds. Whether we are asking for money or giving money we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration."

## 3. Challenging our relationship with money

Giving to church challenges our relationship with money. Some will not give because they do not trust that their money will be put to good use. A wise person retorted "If you never want to be fooled, you will never give money." Some will hold back on their giving, because money is their basis of security and self-worth. Money occupies an intimate place in their hearts that gives them a sense of security and independence. So they guard their money as their stronghold, sometimes not even sharing it with their spouse. The call to contribute to our renovation fund will force us to confront the question - what is the basis of our security? Jesus would say "You cannot serve God and mammon (Luke 16:13)".

*What is the basis of our security?*



"Every act or contribution, small or large, given in love, will help. What we give in love, God can grow into something beyond our imagination."



"From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude."

## 4. Prayer and Gratitude

Fundraising and giving to church should always be grounded in prayer and gratitude. Prayer orientates our thoughts, feelings and actions towards how God would think and act. In other words, it aligns us to God's will. In turn, it will re-orientate the way we think about ourselves, and how we act charitably towards others. Through prayer, we learn to trust that God provides for us in abundance, which leaves us free to give of ourselves to others.

*Gratitude releases us from the fear of not having enough, because we know we already have what we need in abundance*

Prayer deepens our awareness of God's goodness which in turns nurture a spirit of gratitude within us. This gratitude flows from God showing us that in learning to depend on him, He provides all we need in life. Who we are, and what we have, are gifts from God, to be received and shared. Gratitude releases us from the fear of not having enough, because we know we already have what we need in abundance.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we begin our parish renovation fundraising efforts, we pray that we may come closer as a community, to become more united in our vision and mission of our parish – to be Disciples Making Disciples. Thank you Lord for providing our daily bread as we surrender our insecurities and fears to You.

All that You have given us, belongs to You and so we pray for a heart that yearns to be generous with our resources. Help us to love beyond our comforts, and to bring our brothers and sisters in Christ closer to Your Heart. May our efforts be pleasing to You and may You always inspire and guide us with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.



### Mass Timings

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)  
**Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm  
*Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass*

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Mon - Fri:**  
6.30am & 6.30pm  
**Sat:** 6.30am

#### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

#### HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

### Opening Hours

#### PARISH OFFICE

**Mon - Fri:**  
9am - 9pm  
**Sat:** 9am - 7pm  
**Sun:** 8am - 1pm

#### ADORATION ROOM

**Daily:** 5.30am - 11pm

#### LIBRARY

**Sun:** 8.30am - 12.30pm

#### COLUMBARIUM

**Daily:** 7am - 9pm

#### CANTEEN

**Sun:** 7am - 12pm

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffers from serious illness or is weakened by old age. Anointing may be before getting admitted for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

### INFANT BAPTISM



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact [infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg).

### FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact St.Pio prayer group via the Parish Office.

### MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

### MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

### VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)