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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Jesus Lives in Us

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 August 2018

Prov 9:1-6
Eph 5:15-20
Jn 6:51-58

The first two readings from this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word may make us feel 'exposed'. We feel as if our tendency to "folly", our lack of perception as well as our senseless and thoughtless choices have somehow been brought into light by the writers (cf Prov 9:6, Eph 5:15). Perhaps the guilt from these periods of folly and senselessness are still with us and we feel helpless as all our attempts to shake them off have failed.

However, just as the first two readings have 'exposed' us, they are also inviting and encouraging us to surrender ourselves to a loving God who wants to forgive and help us rebuild our lives.

In the first reading, Wisdom, which has been personified, points out to us that our folly is the result of ignorance and the remedy for this is to possess perception and this perception comes from the meal of bread and wine offered in the house erected from seven pillars (cf Prov 9:1-2). The symbolism here points to the Church - the house of God where the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are celebrated. The Liturgy of the Word wherein sacred scripture is read and broken open for us by the priest has the power to teach, rebuke, correct and train us in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). The seven pillars are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit we all received at our baptism to help us



*"He who eats
my flesh and
drinks my blood
lives in me and
I live in him"
Jn 6:56*

mature in our Christian life: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, Knowledge and Fear or Awe of God. The bread and wine are the Body and Blood of our Lord who gives himself to us so that we have the power to become children of God (Jn 1:12). With this abundance of spiritual help poured out on us, St Paul boldly challenges the Ephesians - and us - to be another Christ in the world, "This may be a wicked age, but you redeem it" (Eph 5:16).

In today's gospel, Jesus urges us not to doubt but to have faith and certainty that his body and blood can truly restore us. They are the true food for life and eternal life, "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world" (Jn 6:51). Jesus emphasizes again the pure and eternal quality that he will share with us in verses 54 and 58, "Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life"; "... not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever".

The reality of this new form of holy and eternal existence which begins

even now as we are still on earth is emphasized in John's use of the Greek word "meno" in speaking of how Christ "lives" or "abides" in us, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him" (Jn 6:56). "Meno" is used 34 times in John's gospel and 19 times in his letters. "Meno" means a sustained permanent fellowship. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI tells us that this abiding is the proof of God's love for us, "the basic criterion of love—its characteristic activity and therefore the characteristic activity of the Holy Spirit—is that it creates abiding. Love proves itself in constancy. Love is not recognizable in just one moment... instead love abides, overcomes vacillation, and bears eternity within itself..." (Communio 25, 1998)

In his book on the richness of the Liturgy called "The Feast of Faith", Pope Emeritus warns against living "life with a religious flavor but without a God who hears" (p23). Jesus knows our every weakness and hears our cry for help (cf. Heb 4:15). May we welcome him more wholeheartedly in today's Eucharist and collaborate with his Spirit with greater zeal so as to walk in the ways of perception and recognize the will of God (Prov 9:16, Eph 5:17).

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

CANTEEN

The Elders group will be running the canteen this weekend. Do expect lots of delicious food and come prepared to eat and fellowship.

THIRD SUNDAY, SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This being the third Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the GIFT programme. The GIFT or "Giving in Faith and Thankfulness" programme is a campaign for regular giving to the archdiocese of Singapore. To support the archdiocese's 10-year pastoral plan for a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church. Thank you for your generosity.

CHARISMATIC LISS

The next session is on Mon, 20 Aug at 8pm, 2nd Level, Parish Hall. The session begins with praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Come Holy Spirit fill us with your gifts' by Fr Thomas Lim

YOUNG ADULTS - CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 10)

The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective to their faith on social issues.

This session will be on **Wed 5 Sep 2018, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**; level 3, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. The topic to be discussed is: "Education - how level is the playing field?"

For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 22 AUG (WED) - HARI RAYA HAJI

Please note that there will be **one mass at 8.30am** and no evening mass.

ROAD TO EMMAUS (RTE) RETREAT: SERVICE TEAM MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Calling all parishioners who attended RTE previously!

We are recruiting Service Team members to serve at the upcoming **RTE6 Retreat from 4-7, 13 Oct 2018**. Register here: www.tinyurl.com/rteservice

Please note that there is a compulsory 'Discernment' session for all Service Team members: Tue 21 Aug, 8.30pm to 10.30pm, Mary Martha Room (SFX Parish Centre Level 2). For all enquiries, please call Sharon (HP: 9091 3066) or email: sharonwoo17@gmail.com.

PARISH LAY APOSTOLATE MOVIE NIGHT: THE CASE FOR CHRIST

As we celebrate Lay Apostolate next weekend, the parish will be screening 'The Case for Christ' on **Sat 25 Aug at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall** (2nd level). Invite your friends and family along and follow one man's journey to solve the biggest mystery of all time.

Doors will open at 7pm. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. **FREE ADMISSION** but a love offering will be collected at the end of the movie with all proceeds going towards the SFX Renovation Fund.



Synopsis:

The dramatic true story of how investigative journalist Lee Strobel, legal editor at the Chicago Tribune, takes on the challenge of examining the historical evidence surrounding Jesus, subjecting it to legal scrutiny as he would any other case. This is one movie that invites you to explore the evidence for yourself. Is there a rock-solid case for Christ's existence, crucifixion and resurrection — or not? Rated PG.

FAMILY MISSION TRIP

Always wanted to have a meaningful holiday with your family? Join the Verbum Dei Missionaries on a family mission trip to Tagaytay, Philippines, specially designed for families with children aged 7 years and above. This will be held from 1 - 7 Dec 2018. For more details, please contact Diana Ho at 9689 0919.

TREASURE RETREAT

As young working adults, we spend our lives searching for the one treasure that can satisfy our hungry hearts. What are you seeking? Come and see what the Lord has in store for you at this encounter retreat!

When: Thu 20 Sep 7.30pm – 23 Sep (Sun) 6pm

Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lorong Low Koon, Singapore 536449
Registration fee: \$130

Sign up: <http://oyp.org.sg/treasure10/> - or contact treasureretreat@gmail.com for more information

RENOVATION FUND RAISING UPDATE

The envelopes are slowly coming in and the Fund Raising Committee appreciates the support that has been shown. A lot more envelopes remain out there and parishoners are encouraged to return them with an indication of your intentions or indeed a contribution itself. Your contribution commitment will help us gauge any potential shortfalls and better plan all future activities. In the meantime, here is an updated list of frequently asked questions:

1. What must I write behind the cheque made out to "Church of St. Francis Xavier (Restricted)"?

It is important that the words "SFX Renovation Fund" be written at the back of each cheque. This will help in ensuring that such funds are directed to the Renovation programme.

2. Can I make a contribution in cash?

Yes! Please fill up the SFX Renovation Donation Form with your contact details, indicating the amount of cash you are donating. Then put both the form and the cash into the envelopes marked with "SFX Renovation Fund" and return it to the church office or put into any of the Church donation boxes.

3. Are contributions tax deductible?

Contributions are not tax deductible.

4. For internet transfers (via FAST), the account number does not seem to work.

Please note that the first 4-digits 7171 is the DBS Bank code. If you are transferring via FAST, you do not need to use these four digits. Simply, use the account number 047-9036997.

The latest in St Jerome Library - YOUCAT

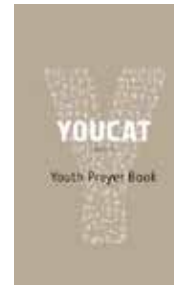
If you were at World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011, you would have been among the 700,000 who received a complimentary copy of the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church or YOUCAT. YOUCAT summarises in 527 questions and answers the teachings from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is set in a conversational style and as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in the Foreword, he hopes YOUCAT will help young people know the faith better, "You need to know your faith with that same precision with which an IT specialist knows the inner workings of a computer" (p10).

St. Jerome Library has acquired the entire YOUCAT series and they are available for loan. Come by and browse or borrow:

St Jerome Library is open Sundays 8.30am -12.30pm



**YOUCAT Youth
Catechism of the
Catholic Church**

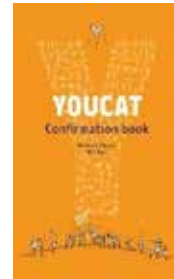


**YOUCAT Youth
Prayer Book**

a "Little School of Prayer" – how to have a living relationship with God



DOCAT What to do
Social Teachings
of the Church on
how to build a
'civilisation of love'



**YOUCAT
Confirmation Book**

a preparation book on common questions like "What we can know about God" and "Why the World is Broken"

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The Dismissal - Preparing for our Mission

Did you forget something?

We see this reminder sometimes and we look around. Did we forget our bag or our phone? Or did we forget to stay till the end?

Just like in some movies, staying till the very last credit rolls gives us a heads up on what's happening next.

This is exactly what's happening when we stay till the very end of Mass.

As the Mass comes to a close, the priest gives a blessing for all those gathered. This blessing calls upon and invokes God's help, asking that God grants them divine favour and sanctification. This is so that the people gathered will go forth from the Mass renewed in their purpose and zeal for mission, strengthened to resist evil and grow spiritually. The congregation has a clear mission: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," or "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord". To leave before



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Mass Timings

Opening Hours

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

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

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

this final blessing then is like participating in only the first 3 parts of the Mass and missing the final part.

Staying for the final hymn and singing it all the way to the end is also the right thing to do. The final hymn is like our rallying cry, sending us forth to prepare our hearts as we step out of church to be Christians in the world but not of the world.

Some people do continue to stay and pray in church after Mass is over. This is a good practice too and we should respect this atmosphere of prayer for all and refrain from catching up with friends or talking too loudly in church. Staying a while longer to pray these prayers of thanksgiving will also help us to focus on thanking God for the great gift we have received in the Eucharist.

Therefore, leaving early before the end of Mass is most definitely not the right thing to do. There may sometimes be good reasons where one has to leave early but that should be the exception rather than the norm. If the boss, or someone important, summons us to a meeting, we would not dare leave before they have formally brought the meeting to a close. This is also true if a beloved parent, sibling or lifelong friend invites us to spend time with them.

The Mass has 4 parts: introductory rites, the liturgy of the Word, the liturgy of the Eucharist and the concluding rites.

- General Instruction of the Roman Missal,

The "liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (mission) of the faithful, so that they may fulfil God's will in their daily lives"

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1332).

The Mass therefore ends with an important task for all of us, reminding us to take the Christ we have received out with us into the world and be his witnesses, to be His lay apostles in the secular world we live in. Won't YOU stay till the end?