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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Understanding Love, Needing God

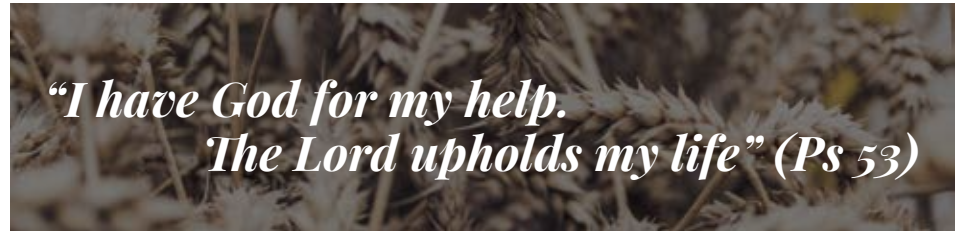
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
23 September 2018

Wis 2:12, 17-20
Jm 3:16-4:3
Mk 9:30-37

The disciples in today's narrative did not grasp what following Christ entailed. They did not understand that true love transcends an egotistic "love" of oneself; a disposition which seeks to replace altruism with narcissism, generosity with selfishness, and humility with arrogance. They therefore did not understand that the mission of Christ was not one of worldly glory, and sought to jostle for power, conceivably hoping to secure prominent positions in the *earthly* kingdom they thought Christ had come establish (cf Lk 9:34; Mt 20:20-28).

Reflecting upon the actions of the disciples, one might perhaps feel a little revolted, perhaps even ashamed at their audacity. Turning our gaze at ourselves however, we see that we are guilty of behaving in a similar manner (Jm 3:16 - 4:3). At work, in school, and even in parish ministries, we try to obtain greatness, endeavoring to out-perform, out-smart and out-manoeuvre those around us; desiring to acquire greater merit at the expense of others.

Such behavior has serious consequences. Not only will we be become hyper competitive merit-seeking sycophants, we begin



to perceive ourselves as the sole author of ourselves, life and society (cf *Caritas In Veritate* 34). When this happens, we lose sight of the divine and gradually replace Christ with ourselves at the center of our life. Instead of becoming disciples of Christ, we become slaves to ourselves and to worldliness. (Jm 3:16 - 4:3).

Rebuking his disciples' egoism, Christ exemplifies the innocence of children. Lacking in deep-seated malice or selfishness, childhood innocence reminds us of purity as well as dependence (St John Paul II, Letter to Children, "*Jesus brings the Truth*", Dec 13, 1994). Children -unlike adults-intuitively appreciate that they *need love* to flourish, constantly seeking to be reassured of this love. Aware that they are loved, a child instinctively submits to his or her parents for guidance in times of helplessness, confusion or fear; recognizing that their parents will come to their aid, *out of love* (CS Lewis, *Four Loves*).

We have gradually lost this disposition with age and independence and have also been encouraged to do so by the individualistic and secular societies in which we dwell. In our obsession with worldly greatness, we have forgotten the original innocence which our baptism restores to us (CCC 1213, 1265). Observing this, G.K. Chesterton poignantly states

that "children are innocent and love justice; while most of us are wicked and naturally prefer [only] mercy" (On Household Gods and Goblins).

Today Christ also speaks to us, reminding us that it is *only in the absence of our selfish individualistic proclivities that God's love can truly flourish*. We are thus called to a deeper understanding of what love is, examining if our love for God is predicated upon a selfish cost-benefit calculus like the disciples' or an innocent childlike love predicated upon dependence. In other words, do we "love" like the disciples in the hope of obtaining greatness, or do we *Love* like children, knowing that we need God's Love to flourish?

Understanding the merits of the latter, we must endeavor to cultivate a greater dependence on Christ, he who is the very incarnation of God's love as well as our model of filial trust in the Father. Bible exegetes have identified the "virtuous man" in today's First Reading as Christ. Like him, we must trust that God will be on our side and rescue us from harm (cf Wis 2:18,20). May our voices be joined to the Psalmist as he sings, "I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life" (Ps 53 - today's responsorial); like children, let us be unafraid to Need God because we know that **He Loves us**.

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by and give them your support.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 24th Sep at 8pm, Parish Hall**. Praise and Worship followed by LISS 3rd Growth Series, a talk on 'Evangelisation' (Who do you say I am?) by Michelle Voo. All are welcome.

MELAKA MARVELS FOR RENOVATION FUND

A few weeks ago, some delicious, homemade goodies were on sale outside the canteen as part of our parish renovation fundraising. Due to the overwhelming response, the fundraising team is back again, this time with pineapple tarts, green bean cookies, sugae and fruit cake.

They will be at the canteen on **Sun 23 Sep** to take your orders. Items will be made only according to pre-orders taken so make sure you place your orders to avoid disappointment! The items will be Christmas wrapped and are perfect as early Christmas gifts.

HALF DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Do you need some time away to pray with the Word of God? With the theme of "Making Christ present in the family", join the Verbum Dei Missionaries for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer on Sun, 30 Sep, 3.15pm to 6.00pm. To register, SMS or WhatsApp Mark at @ 9487 0999.

DROP OFF LOCATION IN CHURCH

If you are taking a Grab/Taxi to church or are being dropped off, please do inform the driver to **go straight and drop you outside the adoration room area**. Do not turn right towards the carpark as the Grab/Taxi will get stuck and may cause traffic congestion. Your cooperation is much needed to allow other cars who need to park and for a smoother flow of traffic within our church.

 DROP OFF EXIT VIA ADORATION ROOM/ CANTEEN/ PARISH OFFICE ♿ ACCESSIBLE	 PARK PARK AT PARISH CENTRE/ CARPARK/ KINDERGARTEN ♿ ACCESSIBLE
PLEASE DRIVE & PARK CONSIDERATELY	

SFX RETREAT : ROAD TO EMMAUS 6

Raise your hand if the following describes you :

1. You are enjoying an intimate relationship with God; you feel truly connected with Him and you want to give thanks for His blessings.
2. You are at crossroads with your spiritual life; you talk, He does not seem to listen.
3. Your faith is lukewarm, coming for mass is a chore and nothing in the homily speaks to you.
4. You are curious about the RTE Retreat and wonder what the fuss is all about.

If any of the above resonates with you, it is time for you to take the next step!

Retreat Dates

04 Oct 2018 Thu, 8pm-10pm

05 Oct 2018 Fri, 8pm-10pm

06 Oct 2018 Sat, 9am-10pm

07 Oct 2018 Sun, 9am-6.30pm (includes mass)

13 Oct 2017 Sat, 9am-1pm

Registration booths will be set up after mass (22/23 Sept and 29/30 Sept)

Do drop by the booths and fill up a registration form. Or register online: tinyurl.com/rte6register

Childminding facilities are available throughout the retreat. Meals and tea-breaks are also provided.

RENOVATION UPDATE

On 6 Sep, 8 shortlisted companies were given a detailed briefing in our parish hall. All 8 will be submitting their proposals and the tender is expected to be awarded by Nov 2018.

As we move forward with the renovation, let us continue to support the project as a parish. Together, we will need to raise a sum of **\$2.3 million**.

Over 2,000 envelopes were distributed 2 months ago and to date we are thankful to have received 320 donation envelopes. We appreciate your contributions! If you need a donation envelope, it can be found at all entrances to the church and at the parish office. We await yours!

#givesfxchurchsg

PSLE PRAYERS

The last PSLE parents' prayer session continues this **Sun 23 Sep** from **11am to 12.30pm** in **St Francis Xavier room**, 2nd level, Parish Centre.

All parents, godparents and families of the L6 children are welcome and urged to come and spend time in prayer. As a church, we pray for our younger brothers and sisters in Christ as they strive and study for their exams. We pray for good health, peace of mind and God's guidance during this period. We also pray for the parents, that they will come together and place Christ in the centre of their lives, as we become part of the SFX family, disciples making disciples.

PIETA SINGAPORE

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is on Tue 25 Sep 2018, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

For more details, contact Pieta via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

MISSION IS OBEDIENCE

The Church celebrates Mission Sunday on 21 Oct 2018. The Office for the New Evangelisation will be publishing weekly reflections leading up to the celebration.

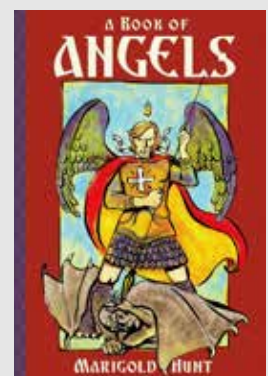
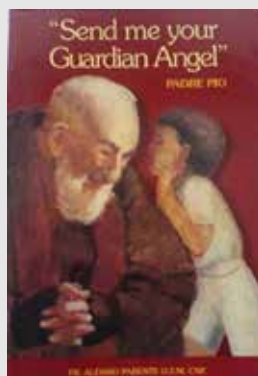
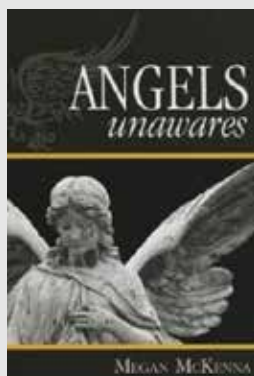
The e-booklet, Mission is Obedience, will be available for download at www.one.org.sg from 26 Sep 2018 onwards.

Why did God create angels?

In a series of catechesis on angels in 1986, Pope St John Paul II repeatedly drew our attention to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. In the Creed, we profess that God made both orders of creation - "all things visible and invisible" - the earthly and the angelic. As we approach the Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on 29 Sep (this coming Saturday), let us better understand how God entrusted the angels with "a special care and solicitude for people" and that by encountering the angelic world which is pure spirit, we can come to see our own being "not only as body but also as spirit".

St Jerome Library will be highlighting various books to help us better understand how angels accompany Christ in fulfilling his saving mission towards humanity. **St Jerome Library is open Sundays 8.30am - 12.30pm.**

Next Saturday we celebrate the Feast Day of Archangels. To find out more, check out these titles at the St Jerome Library!



Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS)



After 9 weeks of inputs, sharings and talks, the Life In The Spirit Seminar (LISS) ended with a Commissioning Mass on 3 Sep. After the homily, Fr Ben blessed the items by the altar; candles, salt, Bibles and prayer cards.

With each participant holding candles, representing themselves as the light in the darkness and the salt of the earth, Fr Ben commissioned them to go out to proclaim the Good News with the Word of God. He empowered them with the Holy Spirit and encouraged them to continue with their growth series. He also invited them to join the various Ministries to exercise their charisms so that they become instruments of Jesus.



Testimonies

“The Life in the Spirit Seminar has taught me a lot especially with the help of the Holy Spirit who rekindled my faith. It had been dormant for a long time, ever since my confirmation. It was a great joy to be able to join LISS to discover God again in my life. It helped me to control my anger, have more patience and trust in God. To be able to receive the gift of tongue also gave me plenty of joy and peace within my heart. To know that He is always there for me, is what I need in my life now.”

“LISS lifted my spirit when my spirit was at an all time low. I learnt about how, when my spirit is sick, my soul suffers, and my life was in a mess. My life was redirected, my spirit was repentant, uplifted, and my soul is healed. During baptism, my tears just flowed. God touched me and He changed my life. Thank you to all who put LISS together. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Holy Spirit.”

“The whole experience especially the praying over has been a wonderful experience. I can really feel the Spirit coming over me and at that moment I felt lifted in the cloud and a sense of peace came down on me. I thank the LISS team for their faith, their sharings and I thank Fr Thomas for journeying together with us. May I continue to connect with the Spirit today and forever. Thank you, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, for the gift of tongue and other gifts you have given to me.”



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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.

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