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**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

## Remaining in God's Loving Gaze

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
14 Oct 2018

Wis 7:7-11  
Hebr 4:12-13  
Mk 10:17-30

Today, St Mark recounts the story of the rich Young Man. Like us, he sought Christ, boldly approaching Him to ask about inheriting eternal life. Christ's paradoxical response to the Young Man calling Him "good" is noteworthy: "No one is good but God alone". By kneeling at the foot of Christ and calling Him "good teacher" the Young Man essentially professes Christ as the Incarnation and acknowledges God as the *summum bonum*– "Supreme Good" (Summa Theologiae). This demonstrates enormous faith, one which was cultivated by his faithful adherence to God's commands. Contrary to popular belief therefore, the Young Man was not a simple wayfarer but a faithful adherent of the law who sincerely sought God's Kingdom.

*Jesus autem intuitus eum dilexit eum* (Jesus looked at him and loved him). Responding to the faith of the Young Man, Jesus looks at him *with love*. This divine gaze penetrates the very depths of our souls and sees us for who we really are; our faults and failings, strengths and successes. It is a gaze which brings us face to face with God Himself (Hebr 4:12-13).

God who loves us infinitely and desires to perfect us in His image (Gaudete Et Exsultate 10). It was this very gaze that

invited Matthew to follow Him (Mt 9:9), this gaze which moved the heart of Zacchaeus to conversion (Lk19:5), and this gaze which beheld the poor widow at the temple who in her poverty offered "everything she had to live on" (Mk 12:41-44).

It was through this loving gaze that Christ saw what was lacking in the Young Man's pursuit of eternal life – Discipleship. He thus invited the Young Man to "follow me, walk in my path! Stand by my side! **Remain in my love!**" (St John Paul II, Homily at Boston Common, 1 Oct 1979). At this however the Young Man's face fell for though he was able to recognise the Supreme Good he could not bear the sacrifices necessary to follow it. This was the critical mistake of the Young Man, to think that a mere adherence to the law was sufficient for salvation. Christ himself reiterates this when He reminds us that the "sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mk 2:27). Though following God's commands is necessary for us to recognise the Supreme Good, we must also be willing to *give up everything to follow Christ*.

The sadness the Young Man experiences as he leaves Christ thus invites us to reflect on the times we have prioritised our own pursuits over following Christ. It was not so much his wealth that prevented him from following Christ, but his inability to detach himself from it (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 14 Oct 2012). Like the Young Man, we will find discipleship impossible if we are distracted by our "wealth", be it material or ideological. When we are unable to subordinate our personal opinions to God's

commands and when we let material temptations get the better of us, like the Young Man we turn away from the Loving Gaze of the Supreme Good forgetting that all other "goods" proceed from God (St. Augustine, De Natura Boni Chapter 1).

The choice of the Young Man in today's gospel thus parallels the choices we have to make each day as Christ's disciples. It reminds us that discipleship is not a mere act of "keeping the commandments" but keeping them so that we may better recognise God as the Supreme Good. The greatest wisdom lies in finding Jesus Christ (Wis 7:7-11). How many of us have truly reflected on this beautiful truth (Mt 13:16)? Yes! Our very presence at mass today, our desire to be nourished by Christ's word and fed by His body means that we have found Christ! Finding Christ however is not enough, recognising that He is the Supreme Good we must endeavour to be His disciples, **seeking always to remain in the Loving Gaze of God**.



**Though following God's commands is necessary for us to recognise the Supreme Good, we must also be willing to give up everything to follow Christ.**

## 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 Legion of Mary will be running the canteen this weekend. They will also be selling potted plants, bibles, Sunday Missals, books, cards, religious items etc. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come and support their effort.

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on Monday **15 Oct** at **8pm**, Parish Hall. Praise and Worship will be followed by LISS 6th Growth Series, a talk on "Catholic Charismatic Renewal A Grace for everyone" by Mike Arents. All are welcome.

### ROSARY: PRAYER/WALK

Rosary at the grotto after evening mass every day (about **7.15pm** on weekdays, **6.45pm** on the weekends).

In the spirit of evangelization, as it is also the month of mission, join us on the Rosary walk as well. If you wish to follow the parish-organised walks, they will be held this week from **15 - 21 Oct**. We start at the Grotto after evening mass. You can scan the QR codes at the grotto or find the rosary booklets online on our parish website under "resources". *Remember to highlight it in the map thereafter!*



### CORDED ROSARY WORKSHOP

Do something different this October. Knot your own cord rosary. Come join us in this easy and fun to learn activity. There will be **2 sessions** available; **Sat 20 Oct** from **3 - 4.30pm** or on **Sun 21 Oct** from **2 - 3.30pm** at Our Lady of Grace room. A fee of **\$25** will be collected for the parish renovation fund. Whatsapp Irene at 9769 4008 to register your interest.

### TOTAL COLLECTED FROM SECOND COLLECTION

With your kind generosity during the 2nd collections last weekend, SSVP (Society of St Vincent De Paul) managed to collect **\$12,610**. This will help fund monthly financial aid to our Friends-In-Need (families and individuals) and other initiatives at district and country level in collaboration with other conferences, Particular Council Serangoon and also National Council (island wide). We thank you for your generosity and give thanks to God for His blessings.

### 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER

Join us as we celebrate our Feast Day as one community on **2 Dec** at **7pm** at the **Serangoon Gardens Country Club**. Besides the sumptuous menu, and entertainment by Matthew and the Mandarins, there will be exciting games and a lucky draw with prizes galore! **Tickets: \$45 per person**. Do look out for the ticket sales after mass to book your seats. Purchase your tickets early to avoid any disappointment! It will be on a first come first served basis.

We would like to humbly appeal for your generosity for donations and/or sponsorship of prizes. Please do contact Patrick at 9616 6663 if you can help.

### THE ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

The Advent Wreaths, part of our long-standing Catholic tradition, are used as part of spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Come and make your own Advent Wreath with your family and friends on **Sat 24 Nov** from **10 - 12 pm** or **2 - 4 pm** in the canteen.

For more information and registration, visit the booth in front of the canteen after mass from **20 Oct**. The wreaths cost \$60 each. All proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund.



We will supply a ring for a wreath (30cm diameter) with foam; set of 4 Advent candles and fresh fir.

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

The Reno Fundraising Team will be organising a Christmas Bazaar on the **18** and **25 Nov**, where food and decorative items will be on sale. We are appealing for contributions to make this Bazaar a truly community event. You can contribute unique crafted gift items, speciality foods or your time to man stalls at the Bazaar. Please call for a discussion soon! Thud Chee 9632 3489, June 9656 7208 or Irene 9769 4008.

### CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trip to Myanmar in **6 - 12 Dec**. We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to continue our friendship with the orphans there. The key objective of the mission will be helping these children with their spiritual formation. If you are keen to join in this Mission or wish to find out more, please contact Anne 9741 9634 or Thud Chee 9632 3489 for details.

### APPEAL FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AID FUND

CHARIS is making its annual appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund to support the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian work and disaster response. Appeal flyers and envelopes are available in the parish. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "CHARIS HAF" with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, #07-02 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954. Please contact us at 6337 4119 or [info@charis-singapore.org](mailto:info@charis-singapore.org) for further information.



## Road to Emmaus



*The "Road to Emmaus" retreat (RTE) from 4 to 7 Oct was a reminder of what a loving community we have here at SFX. Knowing the amount of time and effort the volunteers put into organizing and conducting the retreat made it all the more meaningful. The 70 participants were taken through sessions that helped them to know God better and develop a more intimate relationship with Him. Many who had hitherto not participated in any church retreats were given a taste of heart-stirring, hand-raising Praise and Worship (not, as Father Brian put it, "the boom cha cha boom cha cha that you may be used to") as well as the experience of sharing about their faith journey. In one segment, Father, on behalf of the clergy, sought forgiveness from and reconciliation with participants in respect of any issues they may have against any particular priest. This courageous gesture was very meaningful, especially for those whose spiritual journey has been hampered by these issues. Like the apostles who were on the road to Emmaus, many of us are lacking in faith and slow to discern Jesus's presence in our lives. Like the apostles who left their community in Jerusalem, so too have many Catholics left the church. And like the apostles, it is hoped that those who had a personal encounter with our Lord in the RTE will also be filled with that same zeal and joy, eager to share the Good News with others.*



"Although we are not usually comfortable sharing our personal experiences with strangers, during the RTE, we slowly opened up. The faith of our group mates prodded us to do so. We felt their desire to seek God's grace and love through their sharing. The Saturday session was the highlight for us. Being relieved of all pains and worries after the sacrament of reconciliation was like the greatest appetizer; and the main course was the Holy Spirit making His presence felt. For both of us, that was the first time we had such a wonderful spiritual encounter. We were humbled and dumbfounded at the same time. God reminded us that He is real. He is just waiting for us to say, "Walk with me, Lord." Right after the session, we spoke lengthily about our spiritual experience and with much delight. That kind of sharing was a first for us even though we have participated in retreats before.

The gift we received through RTE is very precious and has made us yearn to be more faithful to God. We are not a perfect couple. We know we will face countless challenges in our faith journey. But God has equipped us with new knowledge and has taught us ways to endure the hardships we will face. He has also reminded us that we have each other and a good community from which to draw strength. We are thankful for the amazing service team and our wonderful priests who were all His instruments in creating this unforgettable experience."

*- Jimmy and Marivie De Borja  
(married couple)*



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

*"This was my first time serving as a Facilitator in the RTE. I was apprehensive as I was afraid that I may not be a good guide. I feel uncomfortable around unfamiliar faces and being a Facilitator means being the one to take that first step to reach out despite my desire to run away instead.*



*But truly the Lord knows me best. He has shown me that all it takes is a willing heart to be a companion and friend to the retreatants. He also bestowed me with the gift of role models in the other Facilitators and Service Team members, who have just given of themselves from the time of pre-retreat preparation and throughout the retreat, trusting that He will work His wonder in His time."*

*- Louisa Sim*



# 1Cor12 Leadership Retreat



On 28 and 29 Sep, the core leaders of the 1Cor12 communities gathered for a retreat. 1Cor12 comprises 10 young adult and youth communities in SFX - Mustard Seed Community (MSC), Abiders in Christ Together (ACT), Leaven of God (LoG), Cornerstone (CS), Brothers and Sisters In Christ (BASIC), In One Spirit (IOS), Followers of Christ United Spiritually (FOCUS), Evidence of God's Grace (EGG), Alive in the Risen King (ARK) and a last community founded by our recently confirmed youths.

The theme of the retreat was "Ephphatha", which means "Be opened". Christ used this word when He healed the deaf and dumb man. Similarly, we were invited to be open to God's voice, especially in the call to lead God's people. We were also invited to retreat, rest and realign our roles as leaders. In this sense, the retreat was a renewal of the call to Christian leadership through quiet time with Jesus and a time to dream for 1Cor12.

We were blessed by the presence of our Spiritual Director Father Don and other parish members who took time off their busy weekends to lead sessions. We shared honestly about where our respective communities were at, our needs and how 1Cor12 could support our communities in making better disciples.

The retreat ended with a session of prayer and affirmation for the leaders for their sacrifices and steadfast duty to God and His people. It was a necessary reminder for all, that ultimately, Christ is the Good Shepherd and the one who leads us to be the leaders in our communities. In the many inadequacies that we feel burdened by, His grace is made strong in our weaknesses. We thank Him for His faithful and fruitful providence.

*- Makoto Gomez*

## 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)