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**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

## That We May Be One

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
2 Jun 2019

Ac 7:55-60  
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20  
Jn 17:20-26

When we label ourselves as "traditionalists" or "liberals", compare religious orders or favour certain priests or nuns, we may be behaving just like the Corinthians chided by St Paul for saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos" (1 Cor 3:4). Both Paul and Apollos were undoubtedly admirable but as St Paul pointed out to the Corinthians, their extreme devotion was "unspiritual": "What is Apollos and what is Paul? They are servants who brought the faith to you...I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God made things grow. Neither the planter nor the waterer matters: only God who makes things grow" (1 Cor 3:5-7).

Perhaps Jesus foresaw with deep sadness these "unspiritual" factions and the subsequent divisions in his Church when we read in today's Gospel that he made a heart-rending prayer to God the Father that all his disciples for all time "may be one" (Jn 17:21). We, the Church, exists in order to evangelize - that is our deepest identity (cf *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14). How can our faith be authentically credible if there is so much disunity within the Church? The bond of love is essential to our evangelization for Jesus himself said, "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (Jn 13:35). Our missionary and evangelical efforts

would have been in vain without love. Certainly it is not our missionary or evangelical competence that reaches the heart of the non-Christians but the deep and unbreakable communion we show each other as Jesus' disciples.

Differences in doctrine, discipline or church structure have led to deep divisions in the one Church that Jesus established. Since the Great Schism or East-West Schism of 1054 which saw the break in communion between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox churches, further rifts have occurred. In an effort to restore unity, Pope St Paul VI promulgated the Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio* (Latin for "Restoration of Unity") at the Second Vatican Council. This decree was largely influenced by a French Dominican, Cardinal Yves Marie-Joseph Congar, who discovered his personal vocation in ecclesiology and ecumenism during his pre-ordination retreat meditating on Jesus' priestly prayer for unity (Jn 17 - today's gospel).

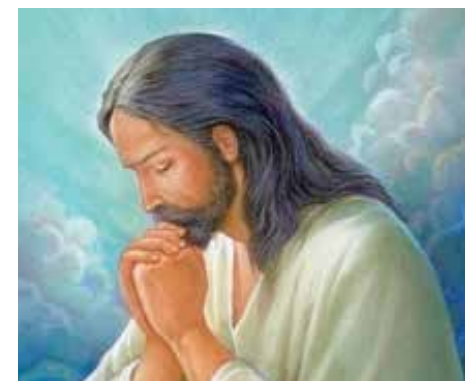
Fundamental to restoring unity is the need for remorse over the divisions, "There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart. For it is from renewal of the inner life of our minds, from self-denial and an unstinted love that desires of unity take their rise and develop in a mature way. We should therefore pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to be genuinely self-denying, humble, gentle in the service of others, and to have an attitude of brotherly generosity..." (UR7).

We may find these attributes so difficult to pray for especially when challenged or persecuted. Perhaps that is why the Church offers to us today

St Stephen's prayer of forgiveness for his executioners, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Ac 7:60). St Stephen's capacity to forgive came from being "filled with the Holy Spirit" and being in the glory of God - beholding Jesus at God's right hand (cf Ac 7:55).

This is the blessed place which we must desire for all to arrive at. Our gift of faith is not a private matter for ourselves alone and it is also not simply "the imitation of [Christ's] virtues...living in this world, as far as we are able, as Christ lived...but it is a journey that has a destination. And the destination is the right hand of the Father...eternal life at the right hand of the Father in communion with Christ" (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *I Believe in One God*, 154).

Having celebrated the Ascension of our Lord this past Thursday, may we desire with renewed fervour the outpouring of his Spirit of love and unity on us at Pentecost. Filled with his Spirit, may we strive to be one people of God bearing each other through the gates into the city where Christ awaits us to remain always in his glory (cf Rev 22:14, Jn 17:24).



*"Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me" - Jn 17:21*

## Announcements

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

### WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY WEEKEND COLLECTION

**This weekend**, all collections taken at Masses will be for our Archdiocese Media Apostolate.

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR POOR AND NEEDY

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul (SSVP) **this weekend** to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Thank you for your generosity.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 5 JUN (WED) - HARI RAYA PUASA

**There will only be one mass at 8.30am and no evening mass.**

### COLUMBARIUM CLOSURE

Please do note that the Columbarium will be closed with immediate effect till **Wed 31 Jul** for renovations.

### HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 6 Jun, 8.30pm** in the **Main Church**.

### THE CENACLE SISTERS: A PENTECOST RETREAT - RECOGNISING SIGNALS OF TRANSCENDENCE

The title, inspired by Peter Berger's "A Rumor of Angels", notes that even in our secularised world, human experience shows signs of a divine presence through signals of transcendence. The retreat suggests ways of recognising these signals and ways of responding to them. There will be time for personal reflection, prayer and individual spiritual direction by Sr. Linda Lizada & team.

**Date & Time:** 12 Jul 8 pm - 14 Jul 1 pm  
**Venue:** Montfort Centre (622 Upp Bukit Timah Road S678117)  
**Contribution:** \$300  
**Register:** [www.cenaclemission.com](http://www.cenaclemission.com)

## ANAWIM

Our next session will be on **Wed 12 Jun at 8pm** in **St Francis Xavier Room** (Parish Centre, Level 2). We welcome anyone who wants to rediscover some aspects of our faith and to live it more meaningfully and joyfully. If interested, please contact Theresa at 9643 7132.

### RCIY REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available on the SFX website and at the parish office. For more information, please contact 8322 1014 (Rebekah) or 9675 5698 (Corinne).

#### 'Come and See' Information Session:

**Date:** Sun 9 Jun  
**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm  
**Venue:** St Francis Xavier Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

#### RCIY Journey:

**Date:** Sun 16 Jun 2019 - May 2020 (Every Sun)  
**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm  
**Venue:** St Francis Xavier Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup](http://tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup) or enquire at [rciy@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:rciy@sfxchurch.sg)

### PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: LITURGICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian Faith! In it, we find strength for a life of Discipleship. So come and learn about the Liturgical walk through the Mass on **Tue 4 Jun, 7.45pm - 10pm** in the **SFX Main Church** as Fr JJ Fenelon unravels the importance of the Sacraments and how community can deepen our appreciation for them. All are invited, so grab your family & friends and sign up now at [tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019](http://tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019)

### A PRAYER CONCERT: KENNY NGO - THE LORD DESERVES ALL PRAISE

Experience a night of prayer, praise, and worship with SFX parishioner Kenneth Ngo as he performs unique renditions of familiar hymns as well as his own original songs. Titled "A Prayer Concert: Kenny Ngo - The Lord Deserves All Praise", Kenneth showcases his personal faith journey, and more importantly, he centres it around praising God as one Church, for God alone deserves all praise! While sharing his beautiful talent with us in an interactive way, Kenneth is also giving back to the parish as 100% of concert profits will go towards SFX's renovation fundraising. Come support him and get your tickets today!

**Date:** Sat 6 Jul  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.45pm (Free seating - Doors open at 7.30pm)  
**Venue:** SFX Main Church  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Register:** Lloyd 9827 6893, Melissa 9363 6516, Michael 9182 5495

### MONTFORT JUNIOR OPEN HOUSE

Have you been thinking about which school you want your child to spend the next ten years? A school should be a place where a child encounters God. Come visit Montfort Junior School; let us share with you our journey in Catholic education. Get practical pointers on transiting to Primary 1 as well.

**Date:** Sat 1 Jun  
**Time:** 9am - 12pm (Talks commence 9am)  
**Venue:** Monfort Junior School (52 Hougang Ave 8 S538786)  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/open-housecatholic-education](http://tinyurl.com/open-housecatholic-education)





## SFX Walkathon 2019

Our very first Family Walkathon, held on 20 May, saw over 80 participants of varying ages and sizes come together to walk for a good cause. To help raise funds for church renovation, participants were tasked early this year to take away Walkathon cards in which friends and family could contribute money.

The organisers had planned for 6 routes that covered the easy and difficult terrains but due to the possibility of bad weather, it was decided to have the walk under shelter. All were bused to the National Stadium and the walk was done round the perimeter of the stadium. Margaret Ho, participating with her 2 grandsons, had this to share:

*"I felt that the change to one venue brought all participants together to walk as one community. We had the opportunity to meet and chat with parishioners whom we had never met or spoken with. It was also heartening to see the young jogging/running and the old walking for our church."*

*My best friend, a parishioner of SVDP (who made a contribution to this fund raising event) joined in the walk together with her family. We had a great time catching up on old school days and sharing our spiritual experiences."*

*My grandsons enjoyed themselves too and it was their first time at the stadium. Joash loved jogging with Uncle Roderick. We were all very happy to have spent our public holiday together with our 'extended' church family!"*



### HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

#### EVANGELISATION – PRIESTS

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are the most poor.

#### IN THE MONTH OF MAY 2019

##### CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Shai Ko Khean
2. Boon Eng Lian
3. Pung Chwee Seng Phillip

##### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Chan Kai, Ezekiel Evan
2. Chan Xuan, Elizabeth Clair



Margaret with her grandsons, Jayden and Joash (with towel around his neck) and friend Sarah.



This activity was organised by the Catechetical, Children's Liturgy and CaFE ministries and they would like to thank all parishioners who participated, helped and supported in one way or other and contributed to the success of the Walkathon.

# From Social Network Communities To The Human Community



Ever since the internet first became available, the Church has always sought to promote its use in the service of the encounter between persons, and of solidarity among all. If the Internet represents an extraordinary possibility of access to knowledge, it is also true that it has proven to be one of the areas most exposed to disinformation, distortion of facts and damage to interpersonal relationships.

We need to recognise how social networks, on the one hand, help us to better connect, and assist one another, but on the other, lend themselves to the manipulation of personal data, aimed at obtaining political or economic advantages, without due respect for the person.

## ***We are members one of another***

Like the world wide web, human relations are also tied in a web of interconnectedness of a community. A community is that much stronger if it is cohesive, supportive, and brings about feelings of trust.

St Paul describes the Church as members of one body, "Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each to his neighbour, for we are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). Being members one of another is the profound motivation with which the Apostle invites us to put away falsehood and speak the truth. As Christians, we all recognise ourselves as members of the one body whose head is Christ. This helps us not to see people as potential threats, but to consider even our enemies as persons.

God is not Solitude, but Communion; he is Love, and therefore communication, because love always communicates. By virtue of our being created in the image and likeness of God who is communion, we carry forever in our hearts the longing for living in communion, for belonging to a community.

This thus calls on all of us to invest in relationships, and to affirm the interpersonal nature of our humanity, including in and through social network. All the more so, we Christians are called to manifest that communion which marks our identity as believers.

As such, the internet should be used as a resource for communion. If a family uses the internet to be more connected, to then meet at the table and look into each other's eyes, then it is a resource. If a church community coordinates its activity through online networks, and then celebrates the Eucharist together, then it is a resource. If the internet becomes an opportunity to share stories and experiences of beauty or suffering, in order to pray together and together seek out the good to rediscover what unites us, then it is a resource.

The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on "likes", but on the truth, on the "Amen", by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others.

Let us, on this 53rd World Communications Day, take heed of our actions and speech online, and offline, and use the internet as a means to strengthen the Body of Christ.

*Adapted from message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 53rd World Communications Day*



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

Temporarily closed

### **LIBRARY**

Temporarily closed

### **COLUMBARIUM**

Temporarily closed

### **CANTEEN**

Temporarily closed

## **ANOIDTING OF THE SICK**

The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission 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)