



Disciples Making Disciples



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Leading a Detached Life

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 Aug 2019

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23
Col 3:1-5, 9-11
Lk 12:13-21

In today's second reading, St Paul writes to the Colossians to "... look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is...not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God." He continues by highlighting the earthly passions that must be "killed": "...impurity...and especially greed". This will show we have put on the new self and have been renewed in Christ (cf Col 3:2-5). Similarly in today's Gospel, Jesus warns against being like the rich fool of the parable who had stored up treasure for himself "in place of making himself rich in the sight of God" (Lk 12:21). In fact, in all of today's readings, we are encouraged to lead a detached life.

The 1972 film, "*Brother Sun, Sister Moon*", examined the life of St Francis of Assisi (formerly known as Francesco). In response to his encounter with God, a stark scene in the film showed St Francis not only throwing the costly textiles of his family's business out of the window to the poor, but he went as far as removing his own clothing, leaving himself naked and free from his past! St Francis' desire was to be immersed in the beauty of nature, to be an ascetic, to enjoy a simple life as a man of God. St Francis was living the

Gospel very radically, following the command of Jesus to the rich official in Luke's Gospel to "sell all you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (Lk 18:22). Are we too, called to live out the Gospel so radically like St Francis or the rich official, "to sell all [we] own and distribute the money to the poor"?

Being free of worldly possessions can also be applied to non-material things - in the spiritual and emotional (in particular, human love) environments, and successes, just to name a few. In fact, owning material things may not necessarily equate to having a life of attachment. One may own a lot of possessions, but still lead a detached life. The term used by St Ignatius of Loyola for detachment is "indifference". Being indifferent does not mean being uncaring. Caring for material things is an essential part of Christian stewardship. In his *Spiritual Exercises*, St Ignatius encourages us to "hold ourselves in balance...make ourselves indifferent to all created things..." and welcome created things only insofar as they lead us to "praise, reverence, and serve God" (*Spiritual Exercises* 23). One can therefore be indifferent and yet be deeply passionate!

St Ignatius' method for cultivating this "indifference" or detachment is *agere contra*. It is Latin for "to act against". *Agere contra* is to act directly against those behaviours that are not life giving. St Ignatius was very aware that he was attached to his career, reputation and appearance. For 11 months, he lived in a cave in Manresa (now a famous pilgrimage site) to fight hard and to "act against"



"To be detached does not mean to be indifferent or uninterested. It means to be non-possessive... A non-possessive life is a free life. But such freedom is only possible when we have a deep sense of belonging. To whom then do we belong? We belong to God."

- Fr Henri Nouwen

his attachments by wearing sack cloth, growing his hair and finger nails and not daydreaming about personal honour but meditating deeply on God.

The late Fr Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) wrote in "*The Non-possessive Life*": "to be able to enjoy fully the many good things the world has to offer, we must be detached from them. To be detached does not mean to be indifferent or uninterested. It means to be non-possessive. Life is a gift to be grateful for and not a property to cling to. A non-possessive life is a free life. But such freedom is only possible when we have a deep sense of belonging. To whom then do we belong? We belong to God, and the God to whom we belong has sent us into the world to proclaim in his Name that all of creation is created in and by love and call us to gratitude and joy. That is what the 'detached' life is all about. It is a life in which we are free to offer praise and thanksgiving."

Announcements

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

SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a second collection by the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Thank you for your generosity!

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS: 8.30AM ONLY

There will only be **one mass** on the public holiday at **8.30am** on:

- **National Day (Fri 9 Aug)**
- **Hari Raya Haji holiday (Mon 12 Aug)**

Do note there is **no evening mass** on both dates.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass on **Wed 14 Aug**
8pm (there will be no 6.30pm Mass)

Masses on **Thu 15 Aug**
6.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm

ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Tue 6 Aug, 8pm** in **St Luke 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.

FR BEN & FR GARCIA'S SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY (8 AUG)

On this very day, we would like to wish Fr Ben and Fr Garcia a blessed 6th and 26th sacerdotal anniversary respectively! We thank you for saying "yes" to the Lord and we pray that you continue to be good shepherds after the Lord's heart. May the good Lord bless you abundantly as you continue to serve him and his people with zeal, humility and love!



PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

Have you ever wondered what does "servant leadership" mean? How can one put the needs of others first, and help develop and empower others? Get some applicable know-hows on how to find out the strength and charisms of your peers and how to empower each individual to be able to serve best with their unique charisms by Andrew Soong on **Mon 5 Aug, 8 - 10pm at the Main Church**. All are welcome! Sign up now at <https://tinyurl.com/SFXModule4>!

SFX KINDERGARTEN OPEN REGISTRATION FOR 2020

We believe every child is unique and special and a gift from God. We give priority to spirituality so that there is a sense of God in all that we do.

For further enquiries, kindly call the Kindergarten at 6280 8929 or email sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Level	Child's year of birth
Pre-Nursery	2017
Nursery	2016
K1	2015
K2	2014

Chinese Immersion Classes for Nursery to K2 levels are available.

60TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER: TICKET SALES!

Join us as we celebrate our 60th Feast Day as a parish community on **Sun 1 Dec, 7pm** at the **Ban Heng restaurant** (Harbourfront Centre #04-01, 1 Maritime Square S099253). Besides the sumptuous menu and entertainment, there will also be exciting games and a lucky draw! Look out for the ticket sales booth after mass and purchase your tickets early. Tickets cost **\$70 per person**, first come first served!

Renovation fundraiser tables available at \$10,000 per table. For further details or to purchase a table, contact the parish priest.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

FOR EVANGELISATION - FAMILIES

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth".

IN THE MONTH OF JULY 2019

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Leu Chen Huang @ Jeanne Leu
2. Philomenadin Ann Josephine

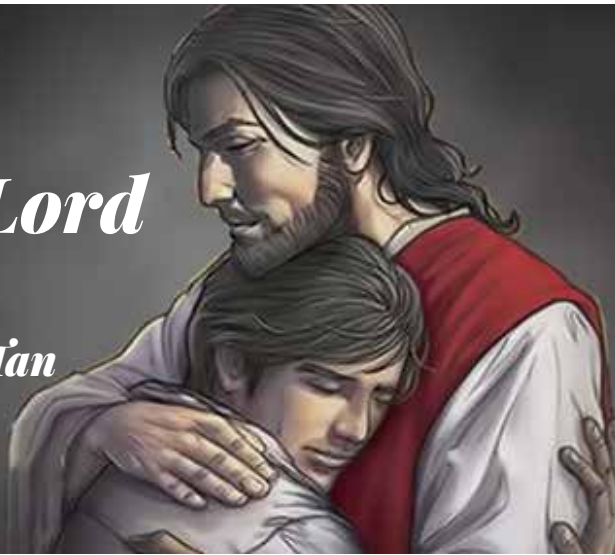
BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Lewis Evan Boo | 13. Jugnet Lucie Chu Yun-Ling |
| 2. Emma Elizabeth Ho Zhi Qi | 14. Thaddeus Oliver Goh Shu Quan |
| 3. Evan Francis Ho Jin Qi | 15. Chen Jiale Luis |
| 4. Matthew Tan Yu Hao | 16. Nah Rui Jie Declan |
| 5. Alethea Ava Ella Kho | 17. Olivia Claire Lin |
| 6. Wu Xuanye Zachary | 18. Lai Yikai Aaron |
| 7. Wu Xuanyu Zane | 19. Aaron Xavier Goh Jun Rong |
| 8. Thaddeus Koh En Hao | 20. Christopher John Goh |
| 9. Seah Chen Kai Emmanuel | 21. Song Kai Rui Ethan Isaiah |
| 10. Jarius Heng Rui Hao | 22. Isaiah Lee Rui Jie |
| 11. Tan Jun Zhi Jared | 23. Isaiah Ong Yu He |
| 12. Bradley James Lim Yang Zhe | 24. Darshan Deagoo Sivakumar |
| | 25. Rose Koh Kar Kian |

Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Saviour

CER testimony by Paul Tan



I come from a very poor family of 5, consisting of my parents and two younger brothers.

When I was 12, I ran away from home. It was then that I started mixing around with bad company.

I committed crimes and even participated in gang fights. I was in and out of prison over a span of 21 years and was also given strokes of the cane.

I got married in 1987. In the first few years of my marriage, my wife went through a difficult time with me and struggled with my selfish behaviour. I suffered from an inferiority complex and was shy to tell people about myself. I was also afraid that people would find out that I was an ex-convict.

Then, many people were talking about this Conversion Experience Retreat (CER), but I was not interested and did not want to hear or know more about it. I had been to many other retreats anyway. One day, I found out that a close friend of mine passed our mutual friend a CER application form, and it made me wonder why she did not pass me one too. Out of a need to prove that I could also go for it, I went home to ask my wife to help me sign up and pay for the retreat.

It was only at CER #29 in 2011, that I truly came to know Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. I remembered Archbishop William Goh, the retreat master, saying that God is not so concerned with our minor sins, but he is more concerned with the sins that we dare not confess. It struck me hard that I did not dare tell people about the things I did that led me to prison. I struggled with the thought of confessing those sins of mine, but it really touched my heart when I finally made my confession to the priest. It took a lot of courage from me as I shed tears

and confessed the sins that I was ashamed to tell any of my friends. That day, I gained true freedom in Christ.

I am now proud to share my testimony of how my Saviour Jesus Christ freed me from my sins, and I am very much accepted by all my fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ at Catholic Spirituality Centre, despite them knowing my background.

Today, I've given my life to God. At the age of 78, I am now working at Catholic Welfare Services as a Welfare Officer, and I can now see all of God's blessings and love that he has been giving me all of my life.

My dear brothers and sisters, I would like to assure you that this is a good retreat and I urge all of you to consider going for it. Come and experience true freedom and love from our Lord, just as I have experienced as well. I pray that the Holy Spirit will bless all of you with discernment, and I wish all of you God's blessings of truth and love.

SFX CONVERSION EXPERIENCE RETREAT

SFX will be having our own stay-in conversion experience retreat (CER) from **Wed 6 Nov - Sun 10 Nov**, conducted by Archbishop William Goh at the Catholic Spirituality Center (CSC)! Successful registration for CER will be determined by balloting. **Important ballot guidelines and the application forms are now available at the Parish Office and Main Church, you can also download them via www.sfxchurch.sg/forms-and-admin.**

BALLOT REGISTRATION DAY AT CSC:

Date: Sat 31 Aug (Registration - 9am)

Time: 9am - 1pm

(Registration **starts at 9am** and **closes at 10am** for balloting)

Venue: St Peter's Hall, Level 1

Address: Catholic Spirituality Centre
(1261 Upper Serangoon Rd S534796)



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Nine tips on how to bring your children to mass!



- 1. Prioritise** - Going to mass should never be an option for you or your children (unless someone is sick or there are other extreme circumstances). Children thrive on routine and they will come to expect this as a part of their week.
- 2. Remember your goal** - We aren't just training our kids to be able to sit quietly and still for an hour. Our real goal is to cultivate a love for God, his Son, and his Church. Keeping this goal in mind can help us keep our cool and remain calm when the kids are misbehaving. If we calmly redirect them, they will learn the beauty of our faith.
- 3. Expect bad days and leave room for grace** - Just as we have days when things are a little off and we lose our patience or temper, our children have days when they can't behave their best. This is an opportunity to bestow God's grace over them.
- 4. Plan and prepare** - It is crucial to prepare for mass beforehand in both practical and spiritual ways. Explain to your children the expected behavior for mass and the reasons why we need to obey the rules. Reading the readings and discussing prior to Sunday will help children to pay more attention to mass because they will have a better understanding of what is being said.
- 5. Practice** - Part of preparing is practicing. This will not only help the kids to learn the parts of the mass, but also allows for practice sitting, standing, kneeling and being quiet.
- 6. Pray on the way** - On our way to mass, say a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help our children grow in their love for God and to have self-control during mass.
- 7. Dress for the occasion** - Taking the time to help the children look nice will help teach them the importance of going to mass. We are going to God's house and we want to look the best for him. Children seem to grasp the importance of this and express it in their respectful behavior.
- 8. Participate and explain the mass** - Children love to join in singing and praying the prayers they know. Help them to not just be observers and bystanders, but to actually take part in the celebration of the mass by explaining to them what is going on.
- 9. Follow Up** - When you leave mass or later during the week, take time to talk about the readings, the homily and the children's behaviour. Help them learn how to apply what was taught at Mass to their own lives. Revisit with them ways their behaviour could have been different or commend them for a job well done.

Extracted from Catholic Link article "Is it possible to go to mass with children? Tips for taking your family to church"

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 except PH

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 check with the Parish Office.



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 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 and Church. 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