



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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***The Divine
Romance: The
Blessed Trinity***

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
16 Jun 2019

Prov 8:22-31

Rom 5:1-5

Jn 16:12-15

Today, the Church invites us to contemplate anew the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity -“the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life” (CCC 261). We profess that “we worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son’s is another, the Holy Spirit’s another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal” (CCC 266). Jesus came to reveal that God’s innermost life “...is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit”. This revelation is given to us because “...he has destined us to share in that exchange” (CCC 221).

In an address delivered in 1930 entitled “The Divine Romance”, the Venerable Fulton Sheen used analogies to help our finite minds grasp the mystery of the Trinity. He began by stating that created in the image of God, we can think. Our thoughts are a part of us. For some, their thoughts carry so much of their personality and spirit that those thoughts bear their imprint like the philosophical and spiritual thoughts of Plato, Dante, St Thomas Aquinas, etc.

Applying this analogy to God, Venerable Sheen says, “Since God is an infinite

Spirit, His thought will not be a mere feeble reflection but rather a thought reaching to the abyss of all things that are known and can be known. Into this thought God will put Himself so entirely that it is as living as Himself, infinite as Himself, perfect as Himself. If a human genius can put his whole personality into a thought...in a more perfect way God is able to put so much of Himself into a thought that it is conscious of itself and is a Divine Person.”

This infinite “Thought” of God is called both Word and Son because “Word... indicate[s] that He is the Wisdom of God”. He is also called “Son” because “just as in our own human order the principal of all human generation is called the Father, so too in the Trinity the principal of the spiritual generation is called the Father and what is generated is called the Son, because it is the perfect image and resemblance of the Father.”

Explaining the co-eternity of the Son with the Father, Venerable Sheen said, “The Father is not first, and then thinks – the Father and Son are co-eternal, for in God all is present and unchanging.... Thus it is that the Father, contemplating His Image, His Word, His Son, can say in the ecstasy of the first and real paternity: ‘Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee.’”

On the Third Person of the Trinity, Venerable Sheen said that the Father and the Son “...contemplate each other, love each other, unite in a love so powerful, so strong, and so perfect, that it forms between them a living bond. They give themselves in a love so infinite that...their love can express itself in nothing less than a Person, who is Love. Love at such a stage does



Heaven is where we encounter the fullness of love that quench the thirst of our hearts, satisfy the hunger of our minds for truth, because that is where we will find communion with perfect Life, perfect Truth and perfect Love in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

not speak...it expresses itself as we do in some ineffable moments, by that which indicates the very exhaustion of our giving – namely a sigh, or a breath. And that is why the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is called the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost”.

Venerable Sheen concluded his reflection by highlighting why God made the world, “God enjoyed the amiable society of His three Persons... [he] had no need ever to go outside of Himself in search of happiness...He made a world only because He *loved.*”

And so, we too love and seek perfection in love. Heaven is where we encounter the fullness of love that quench the thirst of our hearts, satisfy the hunger of our minds for truth, because that is where we will find communion with perfect Life, perfect Truth and perfect Love in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Announcements

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

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

The next Charismatic prayer meeting is on Mon 17 Jun. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Who is the Holy Spirit?' by Fr Paul Goh, from 8pm to 9:45pm at SFX Room. All are welcome.

OLGC CARPARK CLOSURE

Due to the school holidays, the OLGC carpark will be closed.

COLUMBARIUM CLOSURE

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

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church.

GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available in the church pews, and at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION NEXT WEEK

There will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Benediction, which will take place in the main church for the 5.30pm mass on Sun 23 Jun.

Please note that parking at the grotto is not allowed due to the procession. In case of wet weather, there will only be the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the main church.

HAPPY 8TH SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY (18 JUN) FR DON!

Thank you for your sacrifices and devotion. May God bless you abundantly on this special day and always!

WELL-WISHES FOR FR DON

Fr Don will be leaving the Archdiocese of Singapore on Mon 1 Jul and returning to France. Following a period of discernment, he has requested to be reassigned to a mission post closer to his heart. Though he has only been in SFX a year, Fr Don, with his charming nature, warm smile and attempts in speaking English, has come to be liked by many.



As a parish, we would like to thank him and send him our best thoughts and blessings. We invite all parishioners who would like to pen their well wishes to him, to write them down on the paper provided at the entrance of the Church and put it in the labelled box. All wishes will be gathered on Sun 23 Jun.

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 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, as 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
Booths will be set up before and after each mass for the reservation and purchase of tickets.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: LITURGICAL CALENDAR & YEAR

The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian Life (Lumen Gentium #1). The Holy Mass where we celebrate the Eucharist, is the Divine Liturgy celebrated between heaven and earth. Come and find out more about the sacramental, liturgical celebration of the life and love of God that our Father shared with us through his Son in the Spirit from Fr JJ Fenelon. All are invited to the session on Tue 18 Jun, 7.45pm - 10pm at the Main Church. Bring a friend or two, and sign up now at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019!

CARITAS: INTO THE CAVE - THE SPIRITUALITY OF REST

This session is for young adults (aged 18 to 35 years) to reflect on the social teachings on rest and recreation.

Date: Thu 18 Jul
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street S187954)
Register: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

Fathers know best

From a father of 2

"Father Knows Best" is the title of a 1950s family sitcom TV series. Appropriately, it is a comedy show, because fathers do not always know best. A lot of times, he knows not what he does not know!

It is hard being a father. We are never formally trained for the role and neither do they teach it at school. So we cannot always fully prepare for fatherhood. To make matters worse, neither are fathers ever in control of exactly when children arrive into their lives and that of their spouse. Until the baby arrives, there is an undetermined element of when conception happens, whether it will be a boy or a girl, and the exact timing of its birth. One day he is just a husband to a wife, the next day he is a father! Immediately, the pressure and the stress levels mount as expectations and responsibilities explode exponentially as the child grows and matures.

It is hard being a father. But...there is always a but! God never leaves us without help or example. And what better example to follow than St Joseph, the

earthly foster-father of our Lord Jesus. Few words are written about St Joseph but the silence speaks volumes. Firstly, he is a man who listens and responds to the will of God - he takes action and they speak louder than words. Secondly, the actions of St Joseph are always guided by what is just and done out of a self-giving love for others. He loved Mary more than himself; protected and provided for her even though he was poor. Thirdly, St Joseph was a man of courage. He did the right thing by Mary despite the risks to himself; and he uprooted his family to journey to a strange land in order to protect the infant Jesus. He did not walk away when the going got tough but faced his cross squarely, always trusting that God will provide if he responded to the promptings of the Spirit. Finally, if nothing else, St Joseph was humble. He never bragged about his visions, the special nature of his spouse and son. He kept these facts away from the public to guard his family and allow Jesus to mature and grow in stature quietly until the time is right for Jesus to reveal his Divinity. Indeed, St Joseph was blessed in his fatherhood to be able to cradle heaven in his arms and see God face to face in Jesus.



It is hard being a father. But it is also a blessing if we are ready to listen and respond to God. We will be blessed if we respond always with justice in our minds and selflessly in the bond of love. We will be blessed if we respond with courage even if it costs us personal loss; and even if the world laughs at us for not being "worldly wise". We will be blessed if we remain humble in our station in life whilst quietly serving and loving the family that God has blessed us with.

Happy Father's Day!

Thoughts from fathers on Father's Day

This Father's Day, as we pay tribute to all fathers, we also asked a few fathers to share on this question....

What have you learnt from your dad that has stayed with you till this day?

"What I learnt from my dad was his faithfulness and his fear of God. His faithfulness to his vocation as a husband and a father and how he actively follows God closely."

- Father Brian D'Souza



"Daddy showed me that the secret to success is to be simple. But simplicity is incredibly difficult. It wasn't just about deciding what to focus on, but more importantly it was also about having enough love and discipline to give up everything else. Daddy's life was (and is) very simple - his goal is to provide for his family and he did it by grabbing every overtime opportunity at work, and saving every cent he could. That was the easy part. The hard part was his willingness to completely give up indulging on himself, be it entertainment, outings, shopping and even socialising (his only friend is my uncle). That's how he was able to fund his children through university and afford a landed property, all on a technician's pay! No complex investment strategies, just pure simplicity. As he once remarked, 'I am a poor man, but I am rich.'"

- Benny Seetoh, 32 and a father of a 4 month old boy (above)



"My dad passed away more than 30 years ago. But what has stayed with me is his principle to 'live and let live' and to 'forgive and forget'. That's the type of person he was and this is what I've learnt from him.

- John Low, 65 and a father to 3 girls ranging from 29 to 37 years of age (Right: 4th from left, with his family)



A Checklist for Catholic Dads - by Mr Randy Hain



In this article Mr Hain reflects on what were the actions that he learnt from his father and his own experiences as a parent. He said that just making this list was convicting and challenging for him as he became acutely aware of where he fell short. However, developing this list also inspired him as he tries to reflect on these actions during his prayer time each day.

So for all the fathers out there, we hope this list will also help you to reflect and strive on as you journey with your children, grandchildren and god-children and shower them with the love that He has first showered on us.

1. Surrender. We have to surrender on an ongoing basis to Christ for his will to be done in our lives. St. Ignatius of Loyola once said: "Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to him and if they were to allow his grace to mould them accordingly."

2. Be a Man of Prayer. Our children will be much more likely to pray if we do. Work on developing a daily prayer routine with the goal of at least an hour a day devoted to prayer. Consider how much time we spend watching TV, answering emails or how much time we devote to exercise. We have more than enough time for prayer if we schedule it and integrate it into our day.

3. Understand our True Vocation. For those of us blessed to be married and have children, we must recognise that helping our families get to heaven and being good husbands and fathers - not our business careers - is our real vocation. Ask yourself: "Is my work serving my family? Or is my family serving my work?"

4. Invest Time. Our children need our time. Put down the smartphone; turn off the TV; cancel the golf outing. Let's spend more time with our kids! As author-theologian Scott Hahn wrote, in our modern age the father or mother who is willing to walk out of the office after forty hours in order to have more time with his/her family is the real hero.

5. Be Courageous. Christians are meant to stand out, not blend in. Blending in speaks to conforming so that our faith becomes part of the mainstream ... and we need to fight the culture. These are difficult times, and we have a responsibility to love and defend Christ, be great role models for our families and stand up for our faith.

6. Practice Detachment. Are we too focused on acquiring toys, bigger houses, nicer cars, or the next promotion? We need to let go of the things that are in the way of our prayer lives, Mass attendance, charitable giving, volunteering, time with our families, and certainly our relationship with Christ.

7. Love our Wives. Husbands, we must love and cherish our wives. Our children will learn to love others by how they see Mom and Dad love each other. We need to say, "I love you" to our wives and our children as often as possible. "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." - Theodore Hesburgh



Randy Hain is a devoted Catholic husband, father, business owner and an award-winning author. The above excerpt was adapted from his book *Journey to Heaven: A Road Map for Catholic Men*. (Emmaus Road Publishing).



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

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING 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 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