



Disciples
Making Disciples



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The Call of the Lord

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 Jan 2021

1 Sam 3:3-10, 19
1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42

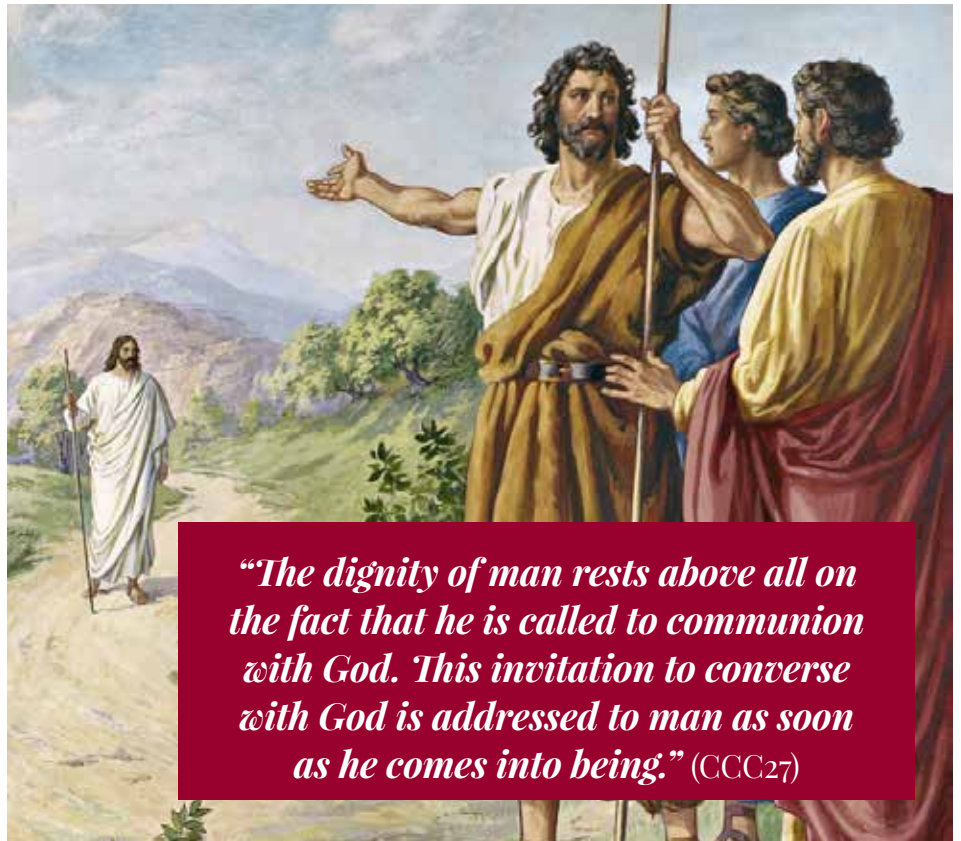
The primacy of God's call in the Christian life is well established. In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church opens with this point: "God draws close to man [and] calls man to seek him..." (CCC1). CCC27 continues, "The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being."

In this sense, salvation history can be seen (or heard) as a series of God's invitations: the first question to Adam on where he is (Gen 3:9), the invitation to Abraham to a foreign land (Gen 12:1), the calling of Moses' name (Ex 3:4), the anointing of David (1 Sam 16:13). Finally, Jesus himself calls — his disciples, St Paul, all men, and all nations.

Our readings this Sunday illustrate a few qualities about God's call.

First, God's call is always an invitation, usually quiet, never brash. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the two disciples, "Come and see." There is neither intimidation nor inducement, neither pomp nor puff. Jesus' simple offer attracts because "[t]he desire for God is [already] written in the human heart..." (CCC27). Similarly, in the First Reading, the Lord simply calls, "Samuel, Samuel."

Second, we sometimes need others to help us recognize God's call.



"The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being." (CCC27)

In the Gospel reading, John is the one who points Jesus out to the two disciples. For Samuel, Eli is the one who realizes that God might be calling and instructs Samuel on how he should respond. In *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*, Father Henri Nouwen argues that Samuel and the two disciples would not have responded in the way they did, if not for Eli and John respectively. "We have to listen to the people in our lives," Nouwen suggests, "even the broken ones, and take them very seriously."

Third, responding to God's call requires a certain receptive disposition. This is best captured by Samuel's childlikeness when he ran to Eli and answered repeatedly, "Here I am." In the Gospel, the two disciples' response to follow Jesus and stay with him also belies their

openness. On one hand, as disciples of John, both men would not have found it easy to leave the rabbi they journeyed with simply because a new teacher called. On the other hand, it is also precisely because of John's teachings that the two were waiting and prepared for the coming of the Messiah, and could thus take the leap of faith.

The corollary, then, of God's call is the possibility of rejecting it. As Catholic writer Marc Barnes forcefully puts it, "If I am not free to reject [God], then human freedom is a sham, and the offer of an eternal marriage of the soul to its Maker is more akin to a rape."

But if we freely respond to God's call and follow him, what marvels await us! In the words of our Lady, may it be done to us according to the Lord's word (Lk 1:38).

Announcements

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

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, 16/17 Jan, being the third weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly pledge. You can give via PayNow (**UEN: 201231391K**) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box at the two entrances of the Main Church. More info at catholicfoundation.sg.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment during the following time slots:

Tuesdays & Fridays: 4pm - 6pm
Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

CATECHISM NOTICE

Catechism sessions for all levels (except L10) will resume on **Sun 21 Feb** and will be conducted via Zoom. For any other enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you. They will provide you with a "Reference No", **MO xxx** (eg **MO 001**). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

RETURNING OF OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of Main Church until **31 Jan**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.

BOOKING OF MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Our Main Church can now accommodate 150 parishioners for both weekday and weekend Masses.

MARS BOOKING SCHEDULE via myCatholic.sg

Tue 19 Jan, 12pm: As there are five weekends in January, booking up to two more weekend Masses* instead of the usual one weekend Mass.

**Subject to availability*

Things to note:

- Entry is via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPII Hall). Please come at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 2 days in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked will be tracked in the system.
- To enter our Church premises, check in must be done via the TraceTogether token or the mobile app.

Let us do our part to help keep our parish community safe!

MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

1. **PayNow** - Launch the Paynow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in amount. Lastly, key in the reference - **Mass Collection**.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

CHARISMATIC: COMMUNION, AS BY A NEW PENTECOST

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 18 Jan, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk 'Communion, as by a New Pentecost' by Gerard Francisco from the theme 'Building a Vibrant, Evangelizing and Missionary Church'. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPiRiT



THANK YOU, FR ANTONY!

Fr Antony will be leaving the Archdiocese of Singapore on **Mon 25 Jan** to return to India. As a parish, we would like to thank him for being with us for the past 6 months and give thanks to God for his pastoral heart, and we invite all our parishioners to keep him in our prayers.

FR BEN & FR CORNELIUS AWAY

Fr Ben and Fr Cornelius will be away from **18 - 21 Jan**.

CPS 2021 LUNCHTIME ZOOM TALK

Am I ready to be a disciple of the Lord?

Do I know what it means to be a disciple of the Lord?
What are the traits of a disciple?

LIVE ON ZOOM

Speaker: Rev Fr Terence Pereira
Dates: 25 Jan, 1, 8 & 15 Feb
(Mondays)
12.30pm - 1.30pm

Register at <https://bit.ly/386cFf4> or scan this QR Code
Registrants will receive the meeting details 1-2 days prior to the session.
Please do not share the details.
Only registered participants will be allowed into the meeting room.

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (ZOOM)

Join us for Introduction to the Bible - a two part lecture series presented by Helen Chong with a Q&A session at the end of the second lecture hosted by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo, OCD., Spiritual Director of the Singapore Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate.

How and when was the Bible written, and by whom? What are the key themes of the Bible and how do the Old and New Testaments relate to each other? Why are there more books in the Catholic Bible than the bibles of other Christian communities? Given that the Bible was written thousands of years ago how can I read it to ensure the correct interpretation?

2 Part Sessions:

PART I

Fri Jan 22:

8.15pm - 9.45pm

PART II

Sat Jan 23:

9am - 10.30am



SCAN TO REGISTER

Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6rhftnf>

Love Offering Options:

Please add INT in your PAYNOW and BANK Transfer detail.

PayNow: UEN T08CC4023DBA1

(ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE)

Bank Transfer: UOB A/C No. 451-300-686-6

Cheque: Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate and mail to 2 Highland Road, #03- 17 Singapore 549102



Catechetical Sunday and Catechists

Our parish marked Catechetical Sunday last week to recognise the critical role of the Church's teaching ministry as well as honour and thank volunteers who serve our young as catechists. It was the perfect opportunity to commission more than 40 catechists during a special mass organised for them. Fr Ben who presided over the celebration, called each catechist by name, thanked and blessed them as they re-dedicated themselves to their ministry.

Effective catechesis however is not possible without the support of parents and guardians who are truly the primary catechists of their children. All parents at mass last Sunday were thus also given a special blessing to commend them in this great role they assume. Pope Francis, at the last World Meeting of Families, said: "... our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith." Parents rightly care about the physical, mental and emotional welfare of their children, and go to great lengths to secure these, but must never forget the most important need they have for spiritual formation and a relationship with God.

We asked a few to share, **"Why are you a catechist?"**. Check out their replies on the next page!

"I never made plans to become a catechist. I just started reading more about my God, Mary, the Church, the saints for my own faith development. As I read, I thought to myself, if only people knew more, they would love God.

Then one evening, I had to attend an RCIA session of my godchildren. As the speaker was explaining the rite of Baptism to them, I felt that he kept missing the mark. I felt an incredible urge burning in me. That was my first experience where I wish I was able to share more about what I read to others. My opportunity came when one of my colleagues, who is a catechist, asked me if I wanted to help as they were short-handed. And I said "Yes".

STEPHEN CHIA | L9 Catechist



"I am a catechist because I feel strongly about passing on the faith to future generations. Also because I truly believe that our faith is so beautiful, true and good. All of us are deeply loved by our Lord and I love telling kids I teach about how much the Lord loves them."

MAXINE MOWE
L7 Catechist

"To journey with my child, Sophie and together re-discover our faith. The faith that carried down through the generations from Grandma Cecilia (87 yr old retired lector) and Grandpa Thomas (81 yr old retired clarinet musician from the 9am choir in the 1960s). Through catechism, I hope in my own little way, to help the children encounter God and Christ as we all try to reach heaven."

BENITA FONG
L7 Parent Catechist



"I stumbled into being a catechist! It started when the ministry asked for volunteers to help out with safeguarding of the children during the renovation period when catechism sessions moved to the school (OLGC). From security, I then progressed to assisting in the class to ensure order amongst the K2 children. Then I started to do the readings and before I knew it, I was assisting in conducting the class.

What drives me is when I realised that it made my son engaged and proud when I conducted the sessions plus it gave me an opportunity to interact with the kids of his age and understand them better. As a catechist, I learn from the children as much as they learn from me, from the preparation of the classes (the structured guides and lesson plans really helped) to the spontaneous questions that the children ask during class, questions which makes me reflect too."

DESMOND CHONG | L2 Parent Catechist

Perhaps after reading this, you too feel inspired to help in this important and meaningful ministry. Do answer His call!
Email catechism@sfxchurch.sg or WhatsApp 9769 4008 with your questions or to find out how you can help hand on the faith to our young.



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

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thur:
6.30pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm

(There is currently no Novena at 4.45pm)

Sun: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm
(There is currently no Confession before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended until further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Sat:

9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

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.

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