



Church of the Holy Family
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Message for the 13th Ordinary Sunday, Year A, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the Church of the Holy Family

The Gospel text of this Sunday presents the Cost of answering the Call to Discipleship and the Rewards of being hospitable to God's presence and gifts.

The way of the Christian is the way of the Cross. The disciple is to take up 'his cross and follow' after Jesus. The task and burden set before the disciple is not his own since he/she has to follow Jesus and makes Jesus' journey his/her own. The disciple is not in a position to set his/her own pathways. Ultimately, the suffering of the Master and that of the disciple for God's plan of salvation of the world become the indistinguishable activity of both. One example is what happened to Simon of Cyrene as mentioned in the Gospel. He was ordered by the soldiers to help Jesus carry the Cross. There is only one Cross but Simon has to do the heavier lifting for Jesus to complete His mission. This act of Simon of Cyrene immortalised in the Stations of the Cross set the benchmark for every disciple of Jesus to participate vigorously in the carrying of the redemptive Cross which there is no other.

Simon of Cyrene was innocent but got involved. We too are innocent of current waves of crisis after crisis be they medical, public health, public trust, economic and social. Nobody can escape being entangled by the Containment Measures because such Measures are crucial so that as many as possible can be saved from the adverse health effects of this Pandemic.

Yet, we must remain calm and composed so that we receive with open arms whatever assistance and relief God wants to send to us directly or indirectly and not to turn these away for our own pride can cause us not to show hospitality to God's presence and power however subtle it may be.

The 1st Reading gives a simple and yet beautiful example of a childless couple who are rewarded with a child for the couple was not afraid to show hospitality to a prophet. Every prophet of God will inevitably incur controversies because there will be cases which would have gone off-course in answering the Call to Discipleship and this couple is not afraid to suffer collateral effects of showing hospitality to Prophet Elisha. Below are the Saints who dare to welcome God's grace no how significant it may seem.

28th June is the feast day of St Irenaeus; Pope St Paul I; and St Vincentia while 29th June is the Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul and we have a Church in Singapore named after these two saints. 30th June marks the feast day of the First Martyrs of Rome; St Otto of Bamberg; and St Theobald of Provins while 1st July is the feast day of Sts Julius and Anron. 2nd July is the feast day of Sts Processus and Martinian while 3rd July is the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle. 4th July is the feast day of St Elizabeth of Portugal; St Bertha; and St Laurianus.

Last week due to time and space constraint, the list of Saints of the Day could not be provided. They are now presented here. 21st June is the feast day of St Aloysius Gonzaga; and St Ralph. 22nd June marks the feast day of Sts Thomas Moore; St John Fisher; St Paulinus of Nola; and St Alban while 23rd June is the feast day of St Audrey. 24th June is the Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist and 25th June is the feast day of St Adalbert; and St William of Montevergine (St William of Vercelli). 26th June is the feast day of St Jose-Marie Escriva de Balaguer and 27th June marks the feast day of St Cyril of Jerusalem.

Fr Stanislaus PANG