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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

Finding Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus told this parable to explain "the need to pray continually and never lose heart". The widow's petition was for "justice against [her] enemy". Not sure what exactly was the claim. But it appeared to be a just claim, as the Unjust Judge decided to give the widow "her just rights or she will persist in coming and worry [him] to death".

Jesus says that God is not like the Unjust Judge. He will not grant our prayers just so that we will stop pestering him. When God answers our prayers, he "will see justice done to his chosen" and he will see that justice is done "even when he delays to help them".

What should we pray for continually and never lose heart? Most of the time, our prayers are for a list of things we need or want or desire. They could really be good things. Like a new job, financial assistance, a successful operation, good grades and peace. But I was struck with how Jesus ended the parable. After explaining how God will respond to our prayers, Jesus said: "But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"

Jesus is connecting prayer with faith. How does praying continually and with perseverance equal to faith? We pray and pray, but do we believe and trust in Jesus and his promises? Most of the times, our prayers and our faith are conditional. When we pray, we expect God to answer our prayers.

And if he does not (or delays), we give up believing in God. We move away from God and the church - disappointed, disillusioned and at times, even angry. The test is simple - Can we pray continually and not lose heart when our prayers are not answered? Do we still believe in Jesus when our prayers are not answered or answered in the way we had hoped for? Do we truly trust in God's will for each one of us?

Prayer, Pope Francis said, "is what lights up Christian life", and he highlighted the fact that prayer is a "serious" matter: "a prayer of adoration to God the Father, a prayer of praise to the Holy Trinity, a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer to request to God... prayer must come from the heart."

So we are to pray by adoring, praising and thanking God continually. And we pray without losing heart - even in our sorrows and disappointments. Like the Lord's Prayer taught by Jesus, we pray to do God's will in our lives, and for our daily sustenance ('our daily bread'). Finally, we pray for the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that God will never refuse those who pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives. All our petitions will then be taken care because God already knows each of these requests and God "will see the justice is done" for each of us - in his time. This is Faith!

Remember miracles do not lead to faith. Rather, it is faith which leads to miracles!

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 16 OCTOBER	Ex 17:8-13; 2 Tim 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8 Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Monday, 17 OCTOBER St. Ignatius of Antioch	Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21 He made us, we belong to him.
Tuesday, 18 OCTOBER St. Luke	2 Tim 4:10-17; Lk 10:1-9 Your friends, O Lord, shall make known the glorious splendour of your reign.
Wednesday, 19 OCTOBER SS. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions	Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Thursday, 20 OCTOBER	Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53 The Lord fills the earth with his love.
Friday, 21 OCTOBER	Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Saturday, 22 OCTOBER St. John Paul II	Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm,
4.00pm, 6.00pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am Public Holiday

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour
11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday
7.30am to 7.00pm

Sunday
8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

16th October, Feast of St. Gerard Majella, CSsR

Gerard Majella was born in Muro Lucano (Potenza) in southern Italy on 6 April 1726 in a family of humble circumstances. From his parents, Gerard learned the love of prayer and sacrifice. When his father died, Gerard, being the only son, had to provide for his family by working as a tailor.

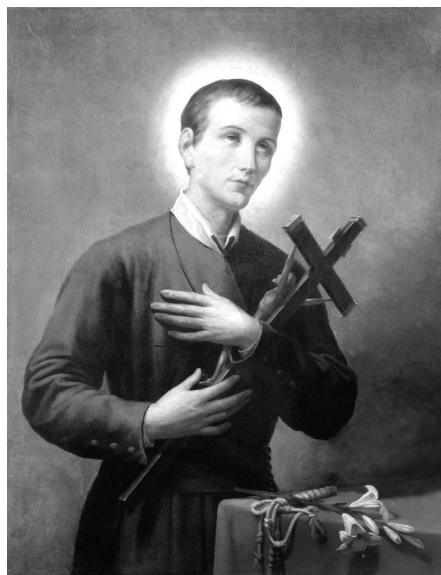
At the age of 14, he sought to enter the Capuchin friary but he was rejected because of his delicate health. After a short time as the domestic servant of the bishop of Lacedonia, he returned to tailoring, but with minimal income.

In April 1749, with utter tenacity, he succeeded in getting himself accepted by the Redemptorists who had preached a mission in Muro. After a trial period and a year of novitiate in the house at Deliceto, he made his religious profession on 16 July 1752.

He was very observant of the rule, while at the same time going about the surrounding countryside to collect money for the material needs of the community. His presence to people, who were weighed down by poverty and illiteracy and at the mercy of epidemics and crop failures, was seen as a sign of hope.

Gerard had a deep empathy for them and gave to all a testimony to trust in the love and the compassion of God. During his five years as a lay brother in the Congregation, he was remarkable for his apostolic zeal, his patience in sickness, his love for the poor, his deep humility in the face of false accusation, heroic obedience, his spirit of penance and his constancy in prayer. He died at Materdomini (Avellino) on 16 October 1755.

He was beautified by Leo XIII on 29 January 1893 and canonized by Pius X on 11 December 1904. Remembered among the people for his love for them, he is especially invoked as patron for mothers, particularly in time of pregnancy and for their infants.



Month of Rosary

Recitation of the Rosary will be at 6pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm from Monday to Friday in the month of October.



Deepavali (24th October)

Please take note there will be no lunch time Mass on 24th October being Public Holiday. Masses will be at 9am and 6.30pm.

Important Notice

All Saints' Day Vigil Mass on 31st October at 7.30pm.

All Saints' Day Masses on 1st November at 12.15pm, 3.00pm and 7.30pm.

All Souls' Day Masses on 2nd November at 12.15pm, 3.00pm and 7.30pm.