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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Authority and accountability.

Many of us have authority over others through formal appointments, recognised expertise or through some other means. Do we live up to the accountability that comes with the given or earned authority?

Scripture readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time focus on God-appointed authority. In the 1st Reading from Isaiah, God removed Shebna as the palace steward and appointed Eliakim instead, placing *'the key of the House of David on his shoulder'*. The corrupt and self-serving Shebna was irresponsible and unaccountable for his deeds while Eliakim was humble, reliable and secure.

In the Gospel Reading from St Matthew, Jesus appointed Peter to build His Church and hold the keys to Heaven. Despite Peter's flaws, Jesus appointed Peter to lead His flock and become a bold leader through the Holy Spirit.

Trying to understand Jesus's divine decision, I recall reading during the Easter Vigil what God had said to Isaiah:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways ..." (Isaiah 55: 8-9).

St Paul in the Letter to the Romans had also given insight into God's divine decisions:

"Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?...All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him".

Hence, as Paul said, it is impossible to understand God's motives on appointing leaders!

I also recall what Jesus said to Pilate on the issue of authority during His trial. When Pilate stated that he had absolute power to release or crucify Jesus, Christ replied that his earthly authority had come *'from above'* (John 18:1-19:42).

The Bible has many examples of God appointing unexpected leaders. Abraham was elderly when God anointed him to be *'father of many nations'* (Genesis 17:5). David was a shepherd boy when God chose him to lead Israel. Moses had killed an Egyptian soldier, but God appointed him to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

While God had appointed leaders, human weakness had let Him down. King Saul tried to kill David, who in turn committed adultery. King Solomon was given wisdom but married foreign wives and turned to idolatry. On the other hand, there were accountable leaders, such as Nehemiah governing Judah with integrity and Joseph astutely managing resources in Egypt to benefit many people during famine.

Remember Jesus' words on authority and accountability:

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 23 August	Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20 Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.
Monday, 24 August St Bartholomew, Apostle	Rev 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51. Your friends, O Lord, make known the glorious splendour of your reign.
Tuesday, 25 August Bless. Methodius Trcka CSsR Martyr	1 Pet 4:12-19, Mt 10:28-33. Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.
Wednesday 26 August	2 Thes 3: 6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32. O blessed are those who fear the Lord.
Thursday, 27 August St Monica	Eccl 26:1-4; 13-16; Lk 7:11-17. Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Friday, 28 August St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor	John 4:7-16; Matt 23:8-12. Lord, teach me your statutes.
Saturday, 29 August The Passion of St John the Baptist	Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29. My lips will tell of your justice, O Lord.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

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

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

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

Closed on Public Holiday

GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

ANP TRIDUUM

 **NOVENA**
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS www.novenachurch.com

2ND SEPT, WEDNESDAY
CHALLENGES IN THE STORM,
GOD WALKS WITH US
7.30PM FAMILY MASS

3RD SEPT, THURSDAY
COME TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
7.30PM A CANDLELIGHT EVENING OF
WORSHIP AND ADORATION

4TH SEPT, FRIDAY
NOVENA YOUTH RALLY:
WRITTEN IN THE STARS
6PM - 10.30PM FLEA MARKET
7.30PM - 10.30PM MASS


MAKE HER KNOWN,
MAKE HIM KNOWN
6TH SEPT, SUNDAY
NOVENA ANNUAL PROCESSION 2026
4.15PM SONGS OF GRATITUDE
5.00PM ROSARY PROCESSION
5.30PM CONSECRATION OF FAMILIES AND MASS

CHILDREN MASS

**There is no Children Mass for
the month of September.**

BLESSED METHODIUS CSSR



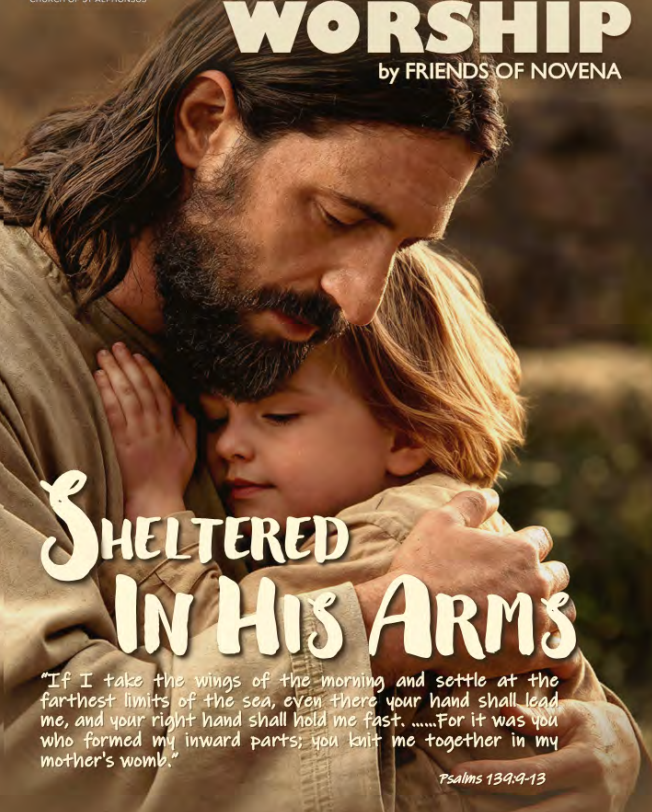
Blessed Methodius Dominic Trcka CSSR

He was born in Frydlant, Moravia, now the Czech Republic on July 6, 1886. He joined on the Redemptorists in 1902, made his profession on August 25, 1904 and ordained in Prague on July 17, 1910. He was the first Vice-Provincial of Michalovce in 1946. He worked to found new houses and form young Redemptorists. In 1950 he was arrested by the Czech government, tortured and condemned to twelve years imprisonment for singing a Christmas carol. Because of harsh conditions he contracted tuberculosis and died on March 23, 1959. Pope John Paul II proclaimed him Blessed Dominic Methodius November 4, 2001.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

 **NOVENA**
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

PRAISE & WORSHIP
by FRIENDS OF NOVENA


**SHELTERED
IN HIS ARMS**
"If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb."
Psalms 139:9-13

11 SEPTEMBER 2026 (FRIDAY)
8:00PM TO 9:30PM
MAIN CHURCH

 
Spotify playlist Youtube playlist

SCALA CANTEN CLOSED

29th August, Sat - 5th Week
5th September, Sat - ANP Week