

Trinity News

February 21, 2010

Lent I - The Temptations of Christ and Our Temptations

The following comments are general and have no specific individual in mind. That is not our way. The Temptations of Christ are grounded in the experience of humanity. We have all felt similar temptations. We all have our fantasies, and we all have dreams that put us above others. We have dreams about being unique and great. Not all of those dreams are wrong. The illusions of a dream may point to something that we can really do to enhance our humanity and lend a blessing to others. The call to **expediency** often looks for scapegoats. When a power figure falls it is often because of the desire to turn **stones into bread**, false monetary figures into real ones, and deceitful information into truth. The main perpetrator is usually the last to fall because such people are very adept at persuading us that stones can become bread. They never feed the hearts of the people and in the end they betray them.

They point to the failures of their subordinates and punish them to evade their own duplicity and incompetence. There are no political saviours, even though at first they appear to feed people with fresh hopes and the promise of bread for their stomachs and a better tomorrow. Eventually too many people turn any bread that is left into stones and the people are dragged down by the weight of them. We of course have many dedicated people who hold high office, and we salute such people. The dream is that there will be more of them on the world stage.

We live in a world of idols, of superstars pampered and sated who reach for drugs and pay for the consequences in expensive rehabilitation clinics. Never has the power of the human mind been **idolized** in such reverent terms, despite the cracks in our psyche caused by our dwindling certainties about life and its meaning. We have subdued the earth and had dominion over it and sucked it so dry of its riches that it is visibly in pain within its incredibly precious canopy of life.

The world's media enterprises feed off and magnify all that is **sensational** in the latest bizarre twists of human behaviour. We salute those who stick to accurate and fair reporting. Violence makes money and sexual fantasies are explored with more avarice than ancient Rome. Those who walk the steady path of loving marriages and lasting relationships and life-enhancing friendships do not make the headlines. More people attend churches than attend most sporting fixtures but the gods of sport are honoured publicly every day with God reserved for Sunday, if at all. These words are written by a sport fan ("fan" comes from "fanatico").

We have much to learn from the Temptations of Jesus, and every time we read them they enter some aspect of our life and draw us into the desert with Jesus. When we meet him there we discover not only our own wilderness, but One who walks alongside us through the sand that sucks at our feet and burns them on scorching days. Jesus is the One who "has in every respect been tempted in every way just as we are – apart from sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

When we walk through our own wilderness we "follow in his steps" (I Peter 2:21). We cannot fully emulate Jesus' unswerving refusal to go against the will and precepts of God, but we can give it a good try!

Bishop Arthur Jones

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Beryl Tanner, JPeter, Bonnie SyCip, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Rom Vildzius, Loy Solasco, Aris Paraman, Isabel Yu, Johnny Manning Jr, Emerinciana Gatela, Ron Jacob, Benjie Conzales, Fr. Gabriel Dimanche, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Carol Garcia, Richard Kendall, Diana Croyston, Merly Quiapos, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Suzanne Jacobson, Carrie Angus, Janet Johnstone, Ema Duhaylongsod, Harriet Campbell-Wilson, Amy Gonzales, Ron & Vera Thoburn, Nikolai Gordevich.

THIS WEEK:

Feb. 23 Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

Feb. 21 Sunday.

- Regular Sunday Eucharist
- Sunday School, 9:15am

Next week's readings:

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 27;

Philippians 3:17-4:1;

Luke 13:31-35

Pancake Supper Update:

Total collection P30,451.00

Total expense P12,804.68

Net surplus P17,646.32

More details are available on the board by the parish office.

THANKS to all who made our Shrove Tuesday a success!

This email was sent to update parishioners and interested individuals in the events and activities of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Makati. If you do not want to receive any emails from CHT, kindly inform us via email. Thank you.