

TRINITY NEWS

October 31, 2010

All Saints' Day - Strange Saints and Unlikely Sinners

The Gospel set for the Sunday readings today is Luke 19:1-10. It is the story of a little crook called Zacchaeus who climbed a sycamore tree at Jericho to see Christ moving through what was even then an ancient city. The story has many hidden symbols. It is explicit only about the low esteem in which Zacchaeus was held by the citizens of Jericho. They were poles apart from the citizens of Jerusalem. Their common bond was that they had Roman rulers who exacted taxes from all of them. No petitions were ever entered in the Church to make Zacchaeus a saint. He is an unlikely person to talk about on All Saints' Day. But he has some of the qualities that we may associate with saints.

He wanted to see Christ and he made an effort to see him. Christ spoke to him and even went to Zacchaeus' house. When he was confronted by Christ, Zacchaeus repented of his sins and offered to make restitution. Christ recognised him as a true son of his own people. Not bad for a reputed crook!

We recognise all sorts of people who have openly loved God on All Saints Day, our examples in the Faith, the Christ-like ones. But St. Zacchaeus sounds strange, doesn't it?

We are always hiding from God, like Adam in the Garden of Eden. God is our conscience and our most favourable advocate. Goodness cannot be hidden, and neither can evil. We are all collections of beautiful and not so beautiful human particles that never quite come together. There are hidden elements in every life, dark corners in the most sacred places. Nothing is ever what it seems to be. We all want to portray truth, but our lapses are evident, even to us at times. Zacchaeus didn't cry out in anguish to Christ from the Sycamore tree. He wanted to see him, to find out his 'secret', to try and stop the pounding of his tumultuous fears, products of the disrespectful voices of those who derided him. But he was also hiding from the luminous presence of God in the strange figure passing under his tree shelter.

We all try to hide from God, even the most vocal atheist. The game of hide and go seek says a lot about us. We hide things from our partners and our friends. They are usually trivial, but sometimes deep and significant. When deep things are hidden, they can cause disruptions in ourselves and in our relationships. No one should be on candid camera all the time, but sometimes we want the hidden things to be found. If we go looking for God, we find that God is also looking for us. Christ came looking for Zacchaeus one day, and it changed his view of the world. Jesus was living out his own words: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Zacchaeus was perceived as an enemy of his people. He had collaborated with a hated oppressor. To show love and forgiveness to an enemy does not say that what they did was right. It does say that we are looking at it from a different perspective. At the moment that we are letting go of hate we have our freest moments on earth, because in those moments we are free of the effects of hurtful actions and unconscious for a fleeting span of time of our own failings. The Saints extend those moments and they walk around like towers of radiance in the world. To be a saint is to enjoy such freedom while it lasts, and to reflect it to the Glory of God and for the benefit of the peace of mind of others. It's a different perspective and few discover it. Those who do bless the world and leave lasting remembrances.

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

TODAY: Oct. 31

- Confirmation Class, 9:30am

NOV. 1, Monday.

- National Holiday. Office closed
- All Soul's Service, 7:00pm.

NOV. 2, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15pm, @ the Malpass':
Apt 7-C Twin Towers West Tower,
Ayala Avenue, Makati

NOV. 4, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER:

☺No Sunday School today.

☺Sign up form for the Annual Christmas Pageant is at the board by the office.

Rehearsals: every Saturday starting on November 13th.**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Job 19:23-27a;

Psalm 17;

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5;

Luke 20:27,34-38

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter, Wilson Teh

| | Last Sunday | Year-to-date | Proportionate Budget | 2010 Budget |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Pledge | P52,066.66 | P3,049,441.80 | P3,225,000.00 | P3,900,000.00 |
| Loose Plate | P 12,100.00 \$1.00 | P710,003.73 | P777,307.69 | P940,000.00 |
| UTO | P 13,020.00 | | | |

The church's monthly Sources & Uses report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com