

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.

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 15 The Tale of Two Sons and Their Decisions

Matthew 21:28-32

The Text poses sharp questions for those who say one thing and do another, particularly in changing positive responses to negative ones.

The son who says no in the first place and then changes his mind and carries out the task is commended. The model is that of the second chance being given, something that happens on several occasions in the New Testament, one particular example being that of the apostle Peter. He denied Jesus three times in the prelude to his trial and then at the end by the Lake he gives three great affirmations that restore his relationship with the now Risen Christ.

That which is unreal is not of God, and that which is real bears the touch of the Spirit, says the writer of A Course in Miracles.

When the Chief Priests and the Pharisees and the Elders of Jesus' society heard the parables of the Two Sons and the Wicked Tenants they wanted to throw him in prison. It must have been insulting to them to be told that the tax collectors and prostitutes would go ahead of them into God's presence. Their purity laws, with some sanctioned by the Torah itself, did endeavour to ensure purity of conduct before the awesome purity of God.

But they also excluded those who did not qualify according to their extended rules. Jesus had a huge trust in the authenticity of John the Baptist's call to be a prophet. He says that John "came in the way of righteousness". That is, speaking words resonant of the inner heart of a righteous God, the source and pattern of both ultimate and earthly reality. Jesus also says that they did not believe John. They were blind to his integrity as a prophet who had received "the word of the Lord".

But the outcasts believed in him and their witness was also ignored. Even then, they had a chance to say yes after their initial negative reaction. They are given another chance to follow the example of the first son who changes his mind. We may have some empathy with the second son who says yes and then fails to follow up on his word!

Metanoia, “repentance”, means “change of mind and heart”. It is an unfaltering look into our own soul. It requires the recognition that there is nothing we want to hide, even if we could. Jesus saw clearly into the souls of his own people. He wanted them to grow faster every day in their inner stature. But he also knew that he could not do it for them. Change comes only from within, not from outside instructions. It requires courage. A car advertisement says that “Courage is looking fear in the eye and taking it head on”. It is a good ad for a powerful car, but no help to us. “Courage” for us is observing the fears that drive the status quo of our self estimations, and yet being brave enough to make some changes that may renew our vision and our hope. Such changes may make all the difference and thrust us forward into new ventures laced with hope and fresh dreams.

Two sons made choices. Both brought a twinge to the heart of their father. One was negative and then changed his mind. One was affirmative and then walked away, going back on his decision. Decisions come along, bidden or not bidden. When they are carried on the wings of the Spirit then we had better pay attention or surrender to the negative results of our lost opportunities.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80; Philippians 3:14-21; Matthew 21:33-43



In preparation for our Harvest Sunday celebration on October 16, 2011, parishioners are asked to please bring donations in the form of **non-perishable food items** for distribution to our Outreach beneficiaries:

- St. Margaret Episcopal Church in Payong, Antipolo
- Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Cainta, Rizal
- Seminarians - St. Andrew’s Seminary, Quezon City

The Parish Office will be accepting donations which may include - but not necessarily be limited to - the following: sardines, instant noodles, dried fish, mungo beans, rice, sugar, cooking oil, powdered milk, coffee, cereals, cookies, crackers and biscuits, candies, and dried noodle packages - bihon, vermicelli, pancit, macaroni, spaghetti, etc.

Your donations will mean a lot to the recipients and will be greatly appreciated.

Let’s share our blessings!

TO PLAN:

Sept. 27, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion @ the Tuttons (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village), 7:30pm

Sept. 28, Wednesday.

Fellowship Gathering (Anglican Churches in the Philippines & International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church), 9am-2pm

CONFIRMATION:

A confirmation class will be offered in the coming weeks. To those interested, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parish Office.