

Trinity News

Lent I The Temptations of Christ as our Temptations

Luke 4:1-13

The setting is the wilderness between the Mount of Olives and Jericho. The sun cuts through the air like a hot knife through butter. Ascending whirls of dust fling powdered film that blurs the eyes of the wandering Jew. He is bowed by heat in the desert and looking for shade

The Spirit comes with Christ, as the Paraclete does with us. But the twisting shadows of evil come to challenge in a rasping voice. Does the voice of gracious goodness prevail or the silky poisonous sweetness of evil? We know the answer for Christ, but what about us?

The first challenge is to turn stones into bread. It is so attractive, the way of EXPEDIENCY. The short answer is usually a long answer, like short cuts on roads that lead nowhere or into rough terrain. Millions go hungry with exposed ribs and obesity weighs down others. I recall a chenille bedspread used as a table cloth, a young girl running down a steep hill to get water from a spring, and dogs eating tea bags at my feet because there was nothing else. A horse stood under the awning. It was at Arraijan outside Panama City with a poor but proud family. They travelled by bus to Tocumen airport to see me off, but they were too late.

The second challenge is the attraction of POWER and WEALTH, owning “the kingdoms of the world”, a frequent 21st century challenge. It is so seductive, and it may put at bay for years conversations that we should have initiated which could rekindle love that once bloomed. It may hide children behind an habitual mental screen who should be seen and held close to reassure them without crushing their self-esteem and their dreams.

The third challenge is the lure of SELF-GLORY, being FAMOUS. The death of a radiant young woman in South Africa saddens us. But some losses are greater than death. The first disabled athlete to run in the Olympic games subsides in a cell, whether guilty of murder or not. Such images are not forgotten. Yet Self-Glory makes us feel immortal and that is good for a while. But when it is prolonged it shuts out the realities of God's Beloved standing bowed in the heat, dripping with sweat and hearing the cajoling voice of Evil trying to deflate his inner peace. The questions remain. Why do women put up with violence? Why do we keep silent when people treat us badly? Why do Christians hide behind the badge and yet behave so contrary to the teachings of Christ? Perhaps it's all a game to avoid the reality of God and the blind fact of our mortality.

Bishop Arthur Jones

A HUGE THANK YOU!!!!

This is to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the generous donation thoughtfully provided for by three gentleman members of the CHT vestry that made possible a wonderful Chinese New Year's celebratory Breakfast/ Brunch buffet for both 7:30 and 9:30 am congregations. These big-hearted men wish to be anonymous.

For the Vestry,
Hazel Rose Madamba

POPPY APPEAL
(November 11,
2012)

*Thank you very much
for helping with our
appeal. P18,440.00 was collected.*



*Consular Section
British Embassy Manila*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am,
Chapel

Saturday.

- ECW EXECOM, 10:30am,
Parish Hall
- ECW General Membership,
12:30noon, Parish Hall

TO PLAN:

LENTEN STUDY to start next week, Feb 26 *or* 27 (Tuesday *or* Wednesday, 7:30pm, Parish Hall).

Book: ***"The Law of the Garbage Truck"***
by David J. Pollay