

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost XX The Grace of the Lord to Paul and to Us

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service, even though I was once a blasphemer and a violent man, I was shown mercy, because I acted in ignorance and unbelief" (I Timothy 1:12-14). No one in the New Testament, apart from Jesus, has contributed so much to our understanding of deep faith in Christ as the Apostle Paul. Prior to this in the same chapter, the writer says of Paul's teaching: "But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith" (1:5). Paul shaped the Christian faith in Jesus from all that he had learned about Jesus and his teaching. He knew more about the last week of Jesus' life than the details of his teaching and his story as sketched in the Gospels.

We owe much of our understanding of the theology of the Cross and Resurrection to Paul of Tarsus. "Love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith" is a summary statement of what Paul yearned to have in himself all the time. He was passionate about his faith in Jesus and constantly under pressure from conservative Jews and Gentiles who acknowledged other gods. Jesus spoke of the blessings of a "cleansed heart." Such a heart is "pure" because it is cleansed by the Healing Spirit of Jesus flowing from the Father. We can clear our arteries, but can't cleanse the heart of our psyche ourselves. It is the repository of our deepest feelings of identity and the most accurate source of our wisest responses. It is not an addition to our reason, but when it is truly faith, it is the core of everything we think about.

"Faith is a force that comes from our integrity. It is the expression of what we really are. Faith is the power of our creation because we use faith to create our life story and to transform our life story. Faith is so important because it is the force that gives life to every word, to every concept that we store in our mind. We can see

that life manifests through faith, and that faith is a messenger of life. Life goes through our faith, and then our faith gives life to everything we agreed to believe in. Remember, we invest our faith by making an agreement. Every concept is alive just because our faith is there and we believe in the concept. Faith is the force that holds all these symbols together and gives sense and direction to the entire dream” (Don Miguel Ruiz). This is a beautiful description of the heart of faith in itself. Pure faith by analogy is a toddler reaching for a parent’s hands in first steps and an old person staring at the ceiling waiting in trust for the light to come that will show them the shortest way on the longest journey home. Trust is the other side of the ‘coin’ of faith and its underlying strength. Faith linked to perceptive awareness has the ring of true faith. Let us rejoice in life through the wondrous eyes of faith!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

Saturday.

- Memorial Service for Carlyn Manning, 10:00am

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Ruth 1:8-19a; Psalm 113; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19



BANNS OF MARRIAGE.

I publish the Banns of Marriage between TANYA LINGGON BALIAO of Pasay City and MIGUEL ANTONIO AYUYAO VERGEL DE DIOS of Makati City. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the **first** time of asking.



ON SALE! *Copies of a book entitled “With Bigger Eyes and Heart in Head: Being Anglican in Post-Windsor Time” are now available from Bishop Joel Pachao at the Diocesan Office in Baguio City, or through the Prime Bishop’s Office in Quezon City. This is written by The Rt. Rev. Artemio Zabala, who currently serves as a retired bishop in residence in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to a mission fund in Baguio to support initiatives for development of lay ministry of Anglicans.*
