

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 38.
September 17, 2023
Proper 19

A Reading from *Things That Matter*

By Charles Henry Brent

There are but two great realities in the vast universe - the heart of God and the heart of man, and each is ever seeking the other. It is this that makes adventure for God not an experiment, but a certainty. The appeal issuing from man's abysmal need is met by the amplitude of the divine supply.

The thought of God's keeping tryst with us is a winsome thought. When we go to pray, God has already come to the meeting-place. We are never there first. He is indeed more ready to hear than we to pray, more ready to give more than we desire or deserve than we to ask. He comes not with the spirit of toleration but of ardent love. The great thing to remember is that God, being who he is, is more ready to hear than we to pray, more eager to give than we to receive, more active to find us than we to find him. God is ever seeking man: his ear is more sensitive to the words, his heart to the desires, of men than the aspen leaf to the summer breeze, that the compass needle to the call of the poles.

Fellowship with the Divine is as normal as fellowship with man.

Humankind cannot be fairly divided into those who pray and those who do not pray, for everybody prays. Prayer is the universal practice of human nature. There is no commoner form of activity. It is not an artificial part of life, but as instinctive and automatic as breathing. It might be said that the capacity for prayer is the feature that distinguishes man from monkey or dog.

Active or dormant, the instinct of prayer abides, a faithful tenant, in every soul. The instinct to pray may be undeveloped, or paralyzed by violence, or it may lie bedridden in the soul through long neglect; but even so, no benumbed faculty is more readily roused to life and nerved to action than that of prayer. The faculty is there; no one is without it. Whether it expands, and how, is only a question of the will of the person concerned.

Faith is a habit rather than an act. - *Charles Henry Brent*
Things That Matter, 1929

SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

Hildegard of Bingen, 17 September. Hildegard was born in 1098 at Böckelheim in Germany. From her earliest years she had a powerful, visionary life, becoming a nun at the age of eighteen, much influenced by her foster-mother, Jutta, who had set up the community and whom she succeeded as Abbess in 1136. Her visions of light, which she described as "the reflection of the Living Light", deepened her understanding of God and creation, sin and redemption. They were, however, accompanied by repeated illness and physical weakness. About twenty years later, she moved her sisters to a new Abbey at Bingen. She travelled much in the Rhineland, founding a daughter house and influencing many, including the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. She was a pastor and teacher, seeing herself as a "feather on the breath of God". She wrote three visionary works, a natural history and a medical compendium. She died on this day in the year 1179.

Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist, 21 September. Matthew appears in the list of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel written under his name, was a tax collector. Mark and Luke called the tax collector Levi, and it has been assumed that they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow Jews as a betrayal to the occupying Roman force but Christ showed that judging by outward appearance was not what he was about. He ate with Matthew and with his friends, scandalising those around him. Matthew affirmed that his life would now change because of following Jesus, and that he would make amends for any former wrongdoing. This was enough for Jesus, for he had drawn someone back to God. He was forgiven, therefore he was acceptable, therefore he was received.

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SEND-OFF CONCERT



Church of the
Holy Trinity
McKinley Rd., Makati City

September 30, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Conducted by:
Anna Tabita Abeleda-Piquero

TICKETS:

VIP: PHP 1,000
General Admission:
PHP 500

*(20% off for students,
PWD and Senior Citizen)*