

and Donations amounted to \$10/. Expenditure for the month was \$8,325.85. We support 87 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. If you know of families in need in our parish, please email us with details to [ssvp.spp@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.spp@gmail.com). We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy families through our SSVF, St Peter's Conference.

**CATHOLIC LAWYERS GUILD ("CLG") PRO BONO MEDIATION** – You can resolve your disputes without going to Court. An accredited Mediator can assist disputants to enter into a legally enforceable Settlement Agreement which provides a win-win situation for both sides. The service is free, for eligible applicants. Please email the CLG at [admin@clgsingapore.com](mailto:admin@clgsingapore.com), or call the Pro Bono hotline at 65164279 or our CLG administrator at 68017494.

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
<b>Secretariat's Operating Hours</b>	: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 9.30pm, Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm, Sun: 9.30am - 5.00pm; Lunch hours: 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.
<b>Columbarium Opening Hours</b>	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, **Asst Parish Priest:** Rev Fr THOMAS LIM OCD, **Priests in Residence:** Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD, **Parish Secretary:** Ms Martha Loh, **Parish Clerk:** Ms Jannie Lui, **Liturgical Co-ordinator:** Alex Wong, [alexdominic@gmail.com](mailto:alexdominic@gmail.com)

**Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:**  
(i) Church of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions/donations for General Operations & Maintenance of the Church; (ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation; (iii) Soc of St Vincent de Paul (Conf St Peter) - for donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the poor and needy.

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Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: [sts\\_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg](mailto:sts_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg) [www.sppchurch.org.sg](http://www.sppchurch.org.sg)

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund - **CHARIS** is making its annual appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund to support the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian work and disaster response. You can also send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, #07-02 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954. Please contact Victoria Lim 6337-4119 or [info@charis-singapore.org](mailto:info@charis-singapore.org) for further information.

**THE GOD OF MANY CHANCES** - A prayer weekend by Sr. Linda Lizada and Team (Cenacle Sisters). Date: 10-12 Nov '17, Fri 8.00pm to Sun 1.00pm, at Monfort Spirituality Centre. Contribution: \$250 per person. For information, contact 65652895 or email [cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com)



Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 November 2017 Year A

**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 586

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 13 November - SAT 18 November 2017

**MON:** WIS 1:1-7, LK 17:1-6 **TUE:** WIS 2:23-3:9, LK 17:7-10 **WED:** WIS 6:1-11, LK 17:11-19 **THU:** WIS 7:22B-8:1, LK 17:20-25 **FRI:** WIS 13:1-9, LK 17:26-37 **SAT:** WIS 18:14-16; 19:6-9, LK 18:1-8

### Message of His Holiness Pope Francis (Part 1 of 2) First World Day of the Poor

*Let us love, not with words but with deeds.*

1. "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" (1 Jn 3:18). These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard. The seriousness with which the "beloved disciple" hands down Jesus' command to our own day is made even clearer by the contrast between the empty words so frequently on our lips and the concrete deeds against which we are called to measure ourselves. Love has no alibi. Whenever we set out to love as Jesus loved, we have to take the Lord as our example; especially when it comes to loving the poor. The Son of God's way of loving is well-known, and John spells it out clearly. It stands on two pillars: God loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:10.19), and he loved us by giving completely of himself, even to laying down his life (cf. 1 Jn 3:16).

Such love cannot go unanswered. Even though offered unconditionally, asking nothing in return, it so sets hearts on fire that all who experience it are led to love back, despite their limitations and sins. Yet this can only happen if we welcome God's grace, his merciful charity, as fully as possible into our hearts, so that our will and even our emotions are drawn to love both God

and neighbour. In this way, the mercy that wells up – as it were – from the heart of the Trinity can shape our lives and bring forth compassion and works of mercy for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in need.

2. "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (Ps 34:6). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry. We possess an outstanding testimony to this in the very first pages of the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter asks that seven men, "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (6:3), be chosen for the ministry of caring for the poor. This is certainly one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian community upon the world's stage: the service of the poor. The earliest community realized that being a disciple of Jesus meant demonstrating fraternity and solidarity, in obedience to the Master's proclamation that the poor are blessed and heirs to the Kingdom of heaven (cf. Mt 5:3).

"They sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:45). In these words, we see clearly expressed the lively concern of the first Christians. The evangelist Luke, who more than any other speaks of mercy, does not exaggerate when he describes the practice of sharing in the early community. On the contrary, his words are addressed to

believers in every generation, and thus also to us, in order to sustain our own witness and to encourage our care for those most in need. The same message is conveyed with similar conviction by the Apostle James. In his Letter, he spares no words: "Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, and drag you into court? ... What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled'", without giving them the things needed for the body; what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead' (2:5-6.14-17).

3. Yet there have been times when Christians have not fully heeded this appeal, and have assumed a worldly way of thinking. Yet the Holy Spirit has not failed to call them to keep their gaze fixed on what is essential. He has raised up men and women who, in a variety of ways, have devoted their lives to the service of the poor. Over these two thousand years, how many pages of history have been written by Christians who, in utter simplicity and humility, and with generous and creative charity, have served their poorest brothers and sisters!

The most outstanding example is that of Francis of Assisi, followed by many other holy men and women over the centuries. He was not satisfied to embrace lepers and give them alms, but chose to go to Gubbio to stay with them. He saw this meeting as the turning point of his conversion: "When I was in my sins, it seemed a thing too bitter to look on lepers, and the Lord himself led me among them and I showed them mercy. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of mind and body" (Text 1-3: FF 110). This testimony

shows the transformative power of charity and the Christian way of life.

We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people's needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life. Our prayer and our journey of discipleship and conversion find the confirmation of their evangelic authenticity in precisely such charity and sharing. This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the flesh of Christ. If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: "If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness" (Hom. in Matthaem, 50.3: PG 58).

We are called, then, to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty in itself.

4. Let us never forget that, for Christ's disciples, poverty is above all a call to follow Jesus in his own poverty. It means walking behind him and beside him, a journey that leads to the beatitude of the Kingdom of heaven (cf. Mt 5:3; Lk 6:20). Poverty means having

a humble heart that accepts our creaturely limitations and sinfulness and thus enables us to overcome the temptation to feel omnipotent and immortal. Poverty is an interior attitude that avoids looking upon money, career and luxury as our goal in life and the condition for our happiness. Poverty instead creates the conditions for freely shouldering our personal and social responsibilities, despite our limitations, with trust in God's closeness and the support of his grace. Poverty, understood in this way, is the yardstick that allows us to judge how best to use material goods and to build relationships that are neither selfish nor possessive (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nos. 25-45).

## PARISH NEWS

**SPP YEAR-END THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS** - Date: 31 December '17, Sunday.

**A) Special Thanksgiving Mass** at 5.30pm with renewal of marriage vows and blessings for all married couples. Please note that there is NO 4pm Mass on this day.

**B) A Kampong Nite @ SPP**, 7.30pm, SPP Compound. Join in our Parish Dinner after the Thanksgiving Mass at 7.30pm. Lots of fun and laughter awaits with programmes throughout the evening till we welcome 2018 together! Cost: \$300 per table. Sale of tickets will start on 4 November '17 at the Church Office! Come with your family and celebrate as a Parish family!

**CARMELITE MYSTICS** - Study on "The Interior Castle" by St Teresa of Avila. We are a group who meets monthly (every 2nd Sat) to share on Carmelite Spirituality/Writings. The session consists of a sharing on the writings which we read, followed by prayer at the Adoration room and fellowship/tea after the session. You are invited to join us for sessions on "The Interior Castle" starting Saturday 11 November 2017 onwards from 2 pm to 4 pm Room 8 2nd level of Parish Building.

Let us, then, take as our example Saint Francis and his witness of authentic poverty. Precisely because he kept his gaze fixed on Christ, Francis was able to see and serve him in the poor. If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalisation. At the same time, I ask the poor in our cities and our communities not to lose the sense of evangelical poverty that is part of their daily life.

*(to be continued .....)*

Source: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco\\_20170613\\_messaggio-i-giornatamondiale-poveri-2017.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20170613_messaggio-i-giornatamondiale-poveri-2017.html)

Contact us at [carmelitemystics@gmail.com](mailto:carmelitemystics@gmail.com) to let us know or for any clarification.

**CATECHISM CLASS REGISTRATION** - 2018 Level 1 (Primary 1) Catechism Class is open for registration. Please obtain a registration form from Parish Office for more details.

**INFANT BAPTISM** - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat, 23 Dec '17 at 2.30 pm in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 2.30 pm before the baptism. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and must be submitted by Thurs, 30 Nov '17.

**PRAYER INTENTION FOR SOULS** - Our parish will be specially praying for souls in the month of November. Everyone is welcome to write the names of their deceased friends and/or loved ones in the book placed near the Infant Jesus shrine. Souls whose names are in the book will be prayed for at all public parish masses in the month of November.

**THANK YOU** - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of Sept '17 amounted to \$6,468.40