

AMOR ET MISERICORDIA DEI

Prayer Group

Sunday, 28th October 2012, from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Sharing - Teaching

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Shalom everyone! Today I am going to give a talk about TWO themes: Firstly, I remind you the importance of putting into practice on the Commandments of God, and how to find God, Who is indeed Love and Mercy, in our daily prayer. And secondly, it is about the importance of putting into practice on having Faith in God, and the way to develop our faith.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, for those of you who were present on last Sunday, on 24th June for the 1st part and on 30th September for the 2nd part of my talks, I believe you had already had the message clear about the Commandments of God. For those of you who were absent those two sessions - no worries, if you want to know about the talk, you may get the message in the form of printed leaflets that I placed in the hall, after this session. In fact, the second part of the talk is my in-depth elaboration about the commandments according to God's inspiration to me. This talk helps one to know the meaning behind these commandments, namely the Ten Commandments.

I remind you that God's Law is the Law of Love. This Law is a call to love God and to love our neighbours. In the Old Testament, the Law is derived from the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20: 1-17), whereby God the Father handed down the Law to us (but first to our ancestors) through His mediator, Prophet Moses. On top of that, in the New Testament, this Law is given to us by Jesus Christ's, known as the New Commandments. In John 13:34, Jesus says, "...now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Similarly, in Luke 10:27b-28, Jesus confirmed the Good Samaritan's response, "*Love your neighbour as you love yourself.*" Therefore here God reminds us the Ten Commandments, that is, from the 4th to the 10th Commandments.

In these commandments, God calls us to love one another. We are mere human, we are imperfect and fragile, and hence a question of loving others is a tough command from God. I said it is "tough" as we are not able to love as God is: we say "it is impossible to do" but God is possible - can you see how poor we are? Therefore, we all need God's love and mercy, don't we?

Brothers and sisters, we need regular and sincere prayer to be able to love the way God commands us "to love as He loves." God knows quite well each one of us here, that is - our weaknesses, yet, He is Merciful! When we call upon Him, deep in our heart, He always listen to our needs, that is, if we pray with the heart - heart with love, and that our intention is good. The Father in Heaven is so generous than our biological father, and Our Father in Heaven knows what He can give us all what we pray provided they are good for us. Hence, if we do not receive something from our prayer, we should first see ourselves: do we pray correctly and sincerely? Do we have humility in prayer? Do we hope our prayer to be answer by means of His will or our will? Do we pray enough, with the heart? Do we give thanks to God whether or not our prayers have been answered? Brothers and sisters, we are lacking of virtues to live as God would us to, therefore we should storm Heaven! Ask God for help! The virtues that mention here such as having humility, hope, patience, charity, peace, be merciful to others, respect and honour others, to name but a few. How can we obtain all these? No others, but through "prayer." Prayer is a gift from God...to help us know our God of Love and Mercy closer to our heart... and thus to imitate Him in our daily lives to live in holiness, as He calls us to.

In John 13:35, Jesus continues saying this, *“If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.”* This call emphasises on the importance of knowing God better and to love Him more and more each day... Brothers and sisters, if we love one another, God dwells in our heart. Thus, before knowing to love others, we love God first. We all do not know what the true meaning of “LOVE” is, if we do not love God first. We do not love due to our sins: we are fragile, inclined to sin, as we are sinners. In fact, it is God who LOVES US first, and it is He who has chosen us first, not us. That is why, if we open our heart to His love and to accept His will totally, God transforms us to be a ‘new us’, a person that imitate His love in us: all the virtues like I mentioned earlier become our permanent guidance to act with love to anyone. God becomes our Saviour of our lives and He controls our lives and protects us from our foes and tribulations in our daily lives. God strengthen us in times of difficulties. We could sense God is good in all! Hence when God dwells in our heart, we become the disciples of Christ. We are no longer a stand-alone ‘self’, but we are in communion in the One Body of Christ. He becomes our Saviour and Lord! He is Our Master - He is the Good Shepherd who looks after His sheep (us) with great care!

Brothers and sisters, again, the call reminds us the importance to love ONE TRUE GOD alone and the need to keep the name of God Holy, as stated in the Ten Commandments, from the 1st to the 3rd Commandments. We need to persevere spending our time in “a contemplative prayer - in silence.” It is only in silence we can reach God. I believe we can hardly reach God if we spend a 10 minutes’ prayer every day. We must take some ‘good’ time to listen to God in our heart, and that we may receive much grace to fight our ‘self’ in time of temptations. Perhaps, if possible, take 30 minutes or so in personal prayer. Brothers and sisters, in our personal prayer, let us surrender our ‘self’ to God and let the Holy Spirit renew us completely through His flaming of love... God bless you all!

I would like now to question you about “faith”. Have you ever questioned yourself the meaning of this word “FAITH”? How to obtain it? And, why is it important to exercise our faith?

God’s promise is faithful. What is this ‘promise’? It is the promise for me and you! What the promise that God has in store for us? Yes! It is the Salvation! Alleluia! But the main question is... do you want to have the Salvation?

How to obtain Salvation? God calls us to believe in the Good News, and live in His Word. Why must we pray daily? I believe “prayer” is the food for our soul and it helps ameliorate the quality of our faith in God. Faith is a gift from God alone. Having faith in God is like having light in our heart to help our eyes see the way to God: the path towards the Blessed Trinity! Do not forget, too, that by praying the Rosary with the heart, every day will improve our faith in God. This prayer builds up a bridge from you to God in Heaven, whereby God show you the Way, the Truth, and the Life in Him, who is our SAVIOUR!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you know that ‘so many people settle for faith based around habit and duty. Some people’s faith is *solely* based upon intellectual assent to creed and dogmas. Other people go overboard on experiential faith and spend their time running from one spiritual experience to another.’ The question here, why are we looking for faith, in a very complicated way? The Scripture says, in Hebrews 12:2, *“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.”* Therefore, faith is a gift from God, it is there in our heart but we have to go to exercise it every day in, silence prayer. My question is how to pray... so that your communication to God could help build up the love of God in your heart...I reiterate, the answer is by means of humility. The treasure of the Kingdom of God is there in your heart...but do you arduously search for it? If you search it with all your heart, and with humbly prayer before the Lord, He will give you! Therefore, I sum up that “faith” can be obtained if we pray correctly and with humility. Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given you; Seek and you will find; Knock and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9). This word of God is clear, but do you believe it? If you believe, is because you have faith to make you believe, then salvation comes to you - you are saved, and you find the home that you are searching for: love, faith, hope, charity, peace, etc...These virtues are the treasures which all of us really need in order to live in harmony within ourselves, and with others, too.

In L'Osservatore Romano, dated 20th February 2003, Pope John Paul II addressed his teaching on faith. He asserts that "Faith...is neither an abstract discourse nor a vague religious sentiment, but a personal encounter with Christ who gives new meaning to life." It is clear, what I mentioned earlier about "faith"...is that, "faith" can be obtained through a sincere prayer, and with humility.

The Pope spoke the importance of having a relationship with God, immersing ourselves in His love, so that we can become holy, as God calls us to. The Pope addressed it in L'Osservatore Romano, dated 20th September 1999; he says "[We] must help people to 'meet' Jesus Christ, to converse with Him and to immerse themselves in Him. Without the vibrancy of this encounter, Christianity becomes a soulless religious traditionalism..." Do you believe it? For me, yes, I do believe it, since me, myself, I have lived in my personal encounter with God, and I have experienced since then...the Living presence of God every day. God is a living God; He lives in us. I sense that without my commitment in God, I am a soulless traditionalism...meaning, I go to church but I think it is a tradition, and I pray because it is traditionally how Christian should live. Now, I live through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. I have encounter Jesus Christ; from Him alone is my Salvation that He promises. He is for me, and of course, for you all, too! Brothers and sisters in Christ, being a person who is into God's love resemble a bird that soars in the sky. I meant if we into God's love, we are like a person who is controlled by the Almighty God, as He is our only Source and providence of our lives - so why worry about worldly 'things'? Being worried... is a sickness of our societies nowadays, as societies tending to dependent on 'one-self' but not in God. If we put our faith in God, put God in the centre of all our daily circumstances, we may sense the freedom inside us resembles the eagle soars or birds fly in freedom in the sky, and that peace fills in our heart. Brothers and sisters, let God's hands constantly guiding our 'self' or being - if you let you surrender all your 'self' to Him, you will be freed. Let us then taste and see, how good our God is! Amen!

The Scripture Reading throughout that week: 28th Week in Ordinary Time (Cycle II) speaks and/or questions about « faith ». During my prayer at adoration, as well as at home, I received God's message for the world, which most importantly stresses upon "faith".

Here are God's messages to us, and to the world:

Tuesday, 16th October, received at home - Morning Prayer

The 1st Reading - Galatians 5:1-6

The Lord says,

"Be strong my people; be strong when you are in difficulty or in tribulation. Have faith in Me, for I am your Saviour... If you have faith in Me - you will be saved. I created you from the beginning...to be My sons and daughters. I can never abandon you, for you are Mine. Don't you know that? I will never forget you! Each of you is dear to My heart...Do not leave Me and do not abandon Me...I Am your Father in Heaven. I love you! Peace be with you all! Be not be afraid... but have faith in Me."

The Gospel Reading - Luke 11:37-41

The Lord says,

“If you love Me, you will know what to do “good” means - My spirit is upon you. Can anyone say that he is good but inside him is dirty? If you do say so, you are a hypocrite! Be always sincere from inside you, thus the outside will show the beauty from the reflection of inside you. My people, thank you for taking My Word seriously and keep it in your heart. I love you...”

Friday, 19th October, received at Adoration - Banneux

The 1st Reading - Ephesians 1:11-14

The Lord says,

“Listen to Me, my people, come to Me...to My heart. My heart is the Source of ALL...I Am your only Providence...the Source for your life...With this Source, you will never be thirsty and hunger any longer. I Am your only Salvation - believe in Me...I Am JESUS. Do not be afraid of darkness, I will protect you. I Am your only Security. I never forget you ever since I formed you in your mother's womb. PEACE be with you ALL!

The Gospel Reading - Luke 12:1-7

The Lord says,

“I am with you at present and shall be with you in the future. I had been with you in the past...I Am the Alpha and the Omega: I know your past quite well; you can never hide from Me, for I Am your Creator.”

As usual, after the Adoration, I attended the Holy Mass. The priest was in his 90s (age); hence, I could not catch what all his teaching was. After receiving the Holy Communion, I asked the LORD (Jesus) to remind me what the central point of the priest's teaching was. The LORD responded, *“The “Truth”... is the way of life, which I will lead (anyone) towards My Father.”* I believe the “truth” that Jesus Christ mentioned here is this: He is our only Source, Providence, Salvation and Security; He is our only Creator who knows our beginnings and our ends, since He is the Alpha and the Omega. The LORD's Word to me here does relate to His messages above.

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Prayer Group

Sunday, 30th December 2012, from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Sharing - Teaching

Shalom my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, I am going to give a talk simply about FAITH as the Lord has inspired me to speak about it so... In fact, if you refer to my Sharing - Teaching leaflet on 28 October, you will be able to see that I did speak a little about faith, too; but today, we shall take into consideration upon how we see God through the eyes of "faith," in prayer. I shall speak about the basic truth about faith, whereby I shall underline three insights, as examples.

The second part of my talk about "faith" will be done in the next prayer group session on 24th February 2013. On 27th January 2013, Father Malvaux will come to give us another talk and a Holy Mass.

Based on the insights from my first talk, I shall draw your attention to the fundamental Christian faith. For this, I will focus on a very "wonderful" prayer, given to us by God, called the CREED, or the CREDO in French. The CREED is a prayer that we, Catholics, pray at the Holy Eucharistic celebration, particularly, on Sundays or on Saturdays. We also say the Creed each time when we pray the Rosary. It is a prayer where we profess ourselves with faith that there is God - God exists and He is our Creator: the Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Brothers and sisters, may I ask you - What is "faith"? When we say "I have faith in God" - what does "having faith" mean here?

(...)

Now, in response to the question of "faith," let us first seek what God says to us in the Holy Scriptures. In Hebrew 11:1, the Scripture says, *"To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see."* Hence if we say, "I have faith in God," it would mean that we believe that God exists though we cannot see Him like you see me or I see you. Having faith make us aware of God's presence in us or amongst us, and that we experience His love, charity, peace, joy, to name but a few. God is a Spirit, He is Holy, and He is Almighty. If you acknowledge that you have such experiences, meaning you are drawn by God's love, and that your faith makes you see God through your personal and intimate relationship with Him. Further, you put your hope in God for anything in the present and in the future. Because of your faith, you have God as your only providence of all things! You are certain, or rather, you trust God that you can obtain all things if it is His will, knowing that God is our Father who knows to give what is only good to you and me, as the scripture says in Matthew 7:11, *"...you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"* Brothers and sisters, FAITH is a gift from God. Therefore, we need to pray and ask God for this grace. We are poor and weak, but it is when we are poor and weak (in spirituality) that God becomes our strength! So to do a daily prayer is the ultimate solution to do what is good - God wants us to meet Him personally in a silence prayer, whereby through a 'sincere' prayer we can obtain FAITH, but also we can obtain HOPE, REDEMPTION, PEACE, and most importantly LOVE for our Creator and for his people: family, neighbours and people that you meet every day, as well as having love for our enemies.

In Hebrew 11:3, the Scripture says, *"It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen."* Brothers and sisters, here the scripture talks about God's Creation, again, having faith in God will help us see that we are parts of God's Creations, others such as lands, seas, skies, plants, to name but a few. What we can see that exist here on

earth, and in the universe like stars, the Sun, galaxy, planets, etc, are extraordinary! Aren't they? But have you ever questioned who made them, and why we are here, who made us and what is the purpose of our living? Can we make our own breath? Can the nature be made alive itself? How can the planets make their particular movements in its axis and around the Sun? All these questions will help us to draw a conclusion by saying that there must be "Someone" who takes control of all these things; 'Someone' who is Almighty and Powerful. Brothers and sisters, through the eyes of "faith," we believe God is the One who made the universe and all living and non-living things in the universe, though we cannot see how were they made and who this God is. God wants us all to believe through the eyes of "faith": only He can give you the power to become his children if you believe, as the Scripture says in John 1:11-12, *"God came to his own country, but His own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive Him and believed in Him; so He gave them the right (power) to become God's children."* Faith draws us to God, and we surrender ourselves to God, as we recognise He is our ABBA, Father! For the Scripture says in John 1:13, people who have faith in God *"...did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born, as a children of a human father; God himself was their Father."*

Another insight about having faith in God is that we could expect miracles do happen if it is God's will. Any extraordinary phenomenon that is thoroughly based on the Holy Gospel is miracle. Yes, faith helps us to see miracle happens in our life, for example, we have breath - hence we have life - having life...is a miracle. For example, we can see life in an evolution of a foetus in its mother's womb to become a baby - the baby is a human being; it is a miracle, because who can give each human being the breath or the life, if not God. What would you think of this truth? Miracles do happen as God promises to save you and me in His way, but not our way. The LORD is our Master, and the Master of the Universe. All what He created are His, and we and the world are His Creation.

In the Holy Bible, Jesus healed many sick people, cast out demons, and even raised Lazarus up from the dead! Based on this truth, have you ever questioned - how does faith help so many healings? There are so many accounts of miracle healings in the Holy Bible, but I would like particularly take two examples from the scripture. One, let us see in Marc 5:21-32; it is about Jairus' daughter who was raised to life from her dead by Jesus because Jairus had faith in God; Jairus' faith is staunch and constant, as he believe that God could heal his daughter. Jairus fell down at Jesus feet and begged Him earnestly. This gesture shows Jairus' great faith that drew him to Jesus (God) for help. In the similar Scripture, it is about a woman who had suffered terribly from severe bleeding for twelve years and many doctors' treatment were in vain; she spent all her money for the treatment but it was only became worst (5:25-26). She then heard about Jesus, so she came in the crowd following Jesus from his back. She said to herself, *"If I just touch his clothes, I will get well."* (5:28) She then touched Jesus' cloak, and she found out that her bleeding immediately stopped. Jesus sought who touched His cloak, the woman told the truth, what had happened to her, and Jesus said to her, *"My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble"* (5:34). Brothers and sisters, what can we see about this truth? For me, I see that by having FAITH in God's providence is our ultimate hope for our salvation. From these two miracles, we could see that faith is shown through particular gestures: one, Jairus threw himself down at Jesus asking for help, and other, the woman touched Jesus' cloak. In the same way, we show our faith in God through the work of charity; for example, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the sisters of Charity take care of the sick, the abandons, the poor, etc. Therefore, faith works with love, that is, love for God and His people.

Brothers and sisters, in today's world, there are some miracles that we could see, too. We could also see miracle healings in so many places such as in Lourdes, in Fatima, in Banneux, to name but a few. Why miracles? In fact, God has shown us that He is faithful to His promise, that is, He is always with us, and that He loves us despite our sins. He repeatedly calls us to do penance for our sins so that we can be saved through Christ, who is our only redemption. The most amazing and mysterious miracle is that God is with us in the Eucharist, that is, God becomes so "small" hidden in the Body of Christ, and present in the Blood of Christ, too. Hence, if you receive it - God inhabits in you - He is not far away from you. Emmanuel - God is with us. Faith helps us to see God within us spiritually. Brothers and sisters, let us praise the Name of Jesus! How great is God's love for us! God wants to save each one of us as He has promised! Alleluia! Amen!