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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 29, 2009**

*I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people. - Jeremiah 31:33*

His Hour is Ours

I would like to begin today with a story about a great Indian Christian named Sundar. Sundar had been a member of the Sikh religion, but converted to Christianity. Sundar lived in the Northernmost section of India in the Himalayan Mountains. The story is true. During the cold of winter Sundar was traveling by foot with a Buddhist monk. Their destination was a monastery high in the mountains. Suddenly, the weather changed. The temperature dropped. The journey became dangerous. Night was coming on, the weather was turning even worse. There was a very good chance that Sundar and the monk would freeze to death. They crossed over a narrow path above a steep cliff when they heard someone calling out for help. Underneath them, another traveler had fallen, and lay deep down in a ravine. He had broken his leg. The monk warned Sundar, "Do not stop. God has brought this man to his fate. He must work it out himself. That is the tradition. We must hurry on ourselves before we die." Sundar responded, "It is my tradition that God has brought me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him so," Sundar went down into the ravine. Meanwhile, the monk hurried on alone. When Sundar came upon the injured man he found that the man had broken his leg. He made a rudimentary sling and hauled the man onto his back. Sundar struggled, but was able to carry the man up to the path. He felt his body overheating, but he continued to carry the man. They were warmed by each other's body. Perspiring hard, almost fainting, Sundar finally caught sight of the monastery. Then a few hundred yards away from the monastery, Sundar stumbled and fell. Sundar had fallen over the body of the dead monk who had left him. The monk had frozen to death within sight of the monastery. As he brushed the snow away from the monk's body, Sundar remembered the words of today's Gospel: The one who would save his life, will lose it. The one who would lose his life for my sake will find it. Sundar had been saved by doing what Jesus did: Giving over His life so others might live.

When we are united to Jesus, His hour becomes our hour. When we are united to Jesus the physical and the spiritual merge. When we are united to Jesus we participate in the life of the One who is eternal.

I am not sure that I fully appreciate what Jesus has done for me. He has given me the ability to experience His presence in others and to bring His Presence to others. He has made the spiritual real. I wish I could say to you that my life is thoroughly enmeshed with His Life, but if I did say that, I would be either lying or in heaven. The reason why this Lent is so important for me is to allow me to come to a deeper realization of His Presence in my life and in my world. I am sure it is the same for all of you. I am sure that there are times that you are wonderfully shocked at the presence of the Lord in your lives. I am sure that you also are astounded when others tell you that they have experienced the Presence of Jesus through you. Those are the times when you and I just are delighted by His Amazing Grace.

The journey of our lives is a journey to make His Hour our Hour. When Jesus uses the phrase, *hour*, He isn't merely referring to the time of day it might be. No, He is speaking about a central moment of human history. The hour is the moment that the world will be transformed. The hour is the point of human history when spiritual life will be restored. The hour is the moment when death and evil will be defeated by Love. The hour is the moment when the mortal will receive immortality.

We are in that hour. We are the continuing Presence of the Savior in the world. This is why the purpose of our lives is to realize, to make real, the love of Christ in our homes and in our lives. We have to allow Christ's love to direct our lives.

His hour is our hour. Sundar said: "it is my tradition that God has brought me here to help my brother."

Jesus said, "Unless the grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain. But if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." And we say, "He died for us so that we may die for Him." **His hour is upon us.**

—Fr. Joseph Pellegrino

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

"Paul had a remarkable experience. On the road to Damascus, the risen Lord, Jesus, appeared to him and called him to be "the apostle to the Gentiles" (Acts 9:1-19). Paul would not characterize his experience as a "conversion" in the sense of a change of religion, but more likely as a "call" or "commission." Acts portrays the event in terms reminiscent of the call of Old Testament prophets, and this is consistent with Paul's own description found in Acts. Paul considers himself an "apostle," one who has been called and sent by the Lord Jesus himself for a special mission. He was to bring the Gentiles into the fold of those who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the long-awaited messiah, the Savior of the world".

—By Ronald D. Witherup, S.S.

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This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., Mar 31st

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

Wed., April 1st —

Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm

Baptism preparation class,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30PM

Fri., April 3rd —

Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 pm

Mass at 8:00 pm

Sat., April 4th

Bible Study & Prayer Group

Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry

Regular meeting: Thu 7:00pm at Burk Hall 252

*Busy Student Retreat - Preparation for Easter,
for more info contact Sr. Su*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM;

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM; young adults group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth groups, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus)

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary, Communion Liberation, Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adorations

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council

Liturgy Committee

Legion of Mary

Communion & Liberation

Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced

As Announced

Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

See schedule

Bible Study & Prayer

AACC Youth Group

Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino

Prince of Peace

FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via

Friday, 6:00 PM

Last Friday, 7 PM

Friday, 8:30 PM

1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 container of 100% juice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned meat, 1 bag of rice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Friday will be the **first Friday** of the month. We will pray the **Stations of the Cross at 7 pm**, to be followed with the celebration of **Mass at 8 PM**. Come and join us as we re-live Jesus Christ's passion and last moments as a mortal human being, suffering as no one ever has. It is also a 'no meat day' for those 14 years old and/or older. Please do not take this obligation lightly.

*Everyone is invited to come to a **job and networking event** on Wednesday, April 8th in Scanlan Hall. Please check out the attached flyer and plan on being here.

*Heads up: As in the past years, Communion and Liberation will sponsor the **Stations of the Cross** in the city on Good Friday. It will start from Coit Tower at 9 am, wind down the hill and end at the steps of the Shrine of St. Francis, 601 Vallejo (@ Columbus) at just around noon. Those who work in the city are especially invited to join us. We could also form a group and go to the city together, and come back in time for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion here at STM.



*Please note that this week's second collection is for the **Needy of the Parish**. In the spirit of family and community, let's all be generous and share the graces we have been blessed with.



***Call to Service.** During Lent we prepare for the Lord's resurrection. It's a great time to start serving as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Choir, Usher or Hospitality Member. We'll provide the training and best of all, we'll work around your schedule. To sign up or learn more, please pick up a Call to Service form after Mass.

***QoP Donation.** Please print up a coupon from our website before going to have your taxes done by H&R Block and hand it to your tax preparer and \$25 will be donated to our Queen of Peace Foundation. Q of P Foundation was set up to help people in need. Every little bit helps and this will mean a lot to those we help. Any H&R Block office will take the coupon. Robert Archer, one of our parishioners works at 5109 Mission Street at Geneva and would be more than happy to serve you. His phone number: 415 334 4362 ext. 229.

***International Food Festival.** Volunteers are needed for this year's International Food Festival. Planning meetings have started. Please call the office for meeting times and other information if you can help. Your assistance and participation in this event will be very much appreciated.

MASS INTENTIONS March 29— April 04, 2009

- 03/29Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00pm Alice Ravetti (hlg)
- 03/30 Mon 8:30am Joseph Ramos (sp. Int.)
- 03/31Tue 5:30pm Edward J. Hurst III †
- 04/01 Wed 8:30 am All Souls in Purgatory
- 04/02Thu 5:30pm Alice Ravetti (hlg)
- 04/03 Fri 8:30am For our clergy
8:00pm Sara & Collin F-Noguera (hlg)
- 04/04 Sat 8:30am Benito Baluyut†
5:00pm Joseph Samiere† & lvg family members

Please call the office to schedule your Mass. Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.

Pray for ... All the sick people in our parish, especially Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauro Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Suezon, Rhona Palencia, Annika de Leon and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish.

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of 03/22/09: \$4.464.35

This week's 2nd collection is for the Needy of the Parish.

Thank you for your generosity!



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to use the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com