

Live to Please God

Dearest sisters and brothers in Christ,

Let your spirit rejoice in the Lord! Nurture in your heart the gift that our loving God is always with us. May we make time in our days to pray for those of our sisters and brothers that have lost the stability that once was the foundation of their lives. May you find within you the love that is unceasing from the Lord. Let us spread God's infinite love to all in need and to those we least expect are in need. As we pass our neighbors on the street we may not be aware of the burdens they carry. Let us turn and greet each person with the love of God in a friendly smile-filled greeting. Let us pray for our families that they may find peace within their hearts. May we share our abundant gifts from God with grace, humility, kindness and love. We can all do something to remind the world of our Lord's beauty and compassion!

Let us find joy in the giving. May our prayers direct us to find kindness and generosity as we give to others. Let us pray that amidst our daily experiences we are filled with the love of God. May that love that resides deep within our souls be given away, in His holy Name.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you to live to please God." (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2)

Live to please God! Let us all write these words upon our hearts that we may, in all that we think, do and say, please God with our love toward others. We are His children, embraced with His love, every day in every way. Let us open our hearts with compassion, generosity, love and joy! May we love the Lord through our actions towards others. May the Lord's grace and abundant love be with you now, and always. May the love of our eternal Lord be the language we share with others. May the language of generosity, grace, kindness and love flow from our lips to all we know and meet, in the name of our Lord. ***Live to please God! Amen.***

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Vincent Phung

From a pastoral letter by Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop

(Acta Ecclesiae Mediolanensis, t. 2, Lugduni, 1683, 916-917)

The Season of Advent

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

Parish Announcements:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 7:30 a.m., followed with the recitation of the rosary and daily Mass.

If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the weekly letter, please sign up for **Flocknote** on the parish website. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the parish office.