

Increase our Faith

In the Gospel of Luke, the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." (Luke 17:5) This request to "increase our faith" implies that they reckon that they already have some amount of faith, because to increase something means you already have some of what you want to increase. Most people have the tendency to think that they have faith; some think that they have plenty of faith, others think that they have ample faith. But whatever the amount of faith the apostles thought that they had, Jesus gave them the right perspective; He replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6)

From there, Jesus continued to teach the apostles the proper attitude of a servant. What could have prompted Jesus to say to them, "Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'?" "Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?" (Luke 17:7-9) Could it be that the apostles have been boasting of their hard work and accomplishments? Could it be the apostles were bickering with one another who is the greatest among them? Or could it be that the apostles were expecting their reward from God too soon, expecting that God should serve them in return because of all that they had done as disciples of Christ?

To make things clear, Jesus said to them, "So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" (Luke 17:10) If the apostles had some faith, not only could they have commanded the mulberry tree to be transplanted into the sea and it would have obeyed them, they could have also realized that all their hard work and accomplishments would have been possible only through the grace of God.

St. Paul testified to the grace of God that was at work in him as he labored with his apostolic work: "By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God [that is] with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed." (1Corinthians 15:10-11)

What lesson are we supposed to learn from regarding ourselves as unprofitable servants? The lesson is simple: Be a humble servant. Don't be like those who take too much pride in themselves and their accomplishments, always expecting some reward or recognition. After all, we are merely participants in God's grand design for the good of all. Just act like a Christian.

I had been feeling extremely sad this past week, as I just learned that one of our parishioners had passed away. I was told that it had been over a year since his passing, but nobody told me, even though some parishioners had known about it for quite some time. It is my duty as pastor to look after the spiritual well-being of our parishioners, whether living or deceased. I hope that you all understand that whether someone has a serious illness, or is in the hospital, or if someone had passed away, these things which are of utmost importance should not be kept secret from the pastor.

As Catholics, we are bound to offer a funeral Mass for our deceased brothers and sisters. Funeral Masses have a dual function in the life of the Church. Not only does it allow the parish community to offer the surviving family and relatives condolences and consolation, the Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of the deceased. Offering a funeral Mass is a powerful moment of intercessory prayer, in which we lift up the soul of the deceased to the Lord our God as a faith community through the Church.

耶穌聖名華人天主堂

THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival today. Our monthly pot-luck for October will be today. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of October, we will order a birthday cake for you!

Attention OCIA candidates and sponsors! We will have our Rite of Welcome on Oct. 5 during the 10:30am Mass. You are required to be present. OCIA class will begin at 12:00 noon.

Attention children and parents: No Sunday School class on Sunday.

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

For our iGiveCatholic initiative this year, SUPPORT OUR OUTDOOR PRAYER GARDEN AND RECREATION AREA. We have begun the first phase of a new outdoor prayer garden and recreation area in our church property by clearing the space needed for this small capital improvement project. The first phase includes ground covering, outdoor benches and a gazebo or mini-pavilion, our goal for Phase 1 is \$10,000. There will be additional future phases. When completed, the prayer garden will contain an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a monument to Our Lady of China with engraved commemorative bricks. The prayer garden will provide our parishioners and visitors a sacred outdoor space for group prayer and private meditation, as well as open up opportunities for activities which foster both spiritual growth and community building. Please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes provided.

Prayer List: Gao Aishang, Xie Yannong, Xu Chunmei, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		