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ASCENSION AND COMMUNICATION

By Lisa Fernandes

Today is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and World Communications Day; appropriately enough today's Psalm speaks of shouting, as well as singing praises to God.

The Ascension, also known as the Great Commission, followed Jesus' parting words from the gospel – the last direct encounter of Jesus with the disciples – when he says the following before he ascends to heaven: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20). We acknowledge this at every mass when we say the Apostles Creed. In his address for today's 51st World Communications Day, Pope Francis ties the two together. First he talks about communication as he asks “...everyone to offer the people of our time storylines that are at heart 'good news'”. Then he talks about the Ascension: “Our hope based on the good news which is Jesus himself makes us lift up our eyes to contemplate the Lord in the liturgical celebration of the Ascension.”

I was reminded of the idea of storylines from Pope Francis' address at a talk by Bishop Paul Tighe (Adjunct Secretary with the Vatican Council for Culture) in the recent Annual Christianity and the Arts Lecture, “The Church and Contemporary Art”. He said we need a culture of encounter or dialogue with others. Art plays a role in taking this dialogue forward; art invites us to be attentive in a distracted world – an idea I appreciate as someone who has studied art history and loves spending time in museums and galleries. As Bishop Tighe said, art is universal, and the church originally needed artists as they made stories accessible to those who could not read. We all want to be in the know which is why we check our mobile devices constantly. In our age of FOMO (fear of missing out) and increased social media we might be losing the essence of dialogue as more and more dialogue is taking place between an individual and their mobile device rather than with people.

So on this dual day of celebration, maybe take a minute to put down your mobile device, take in an art show and “be here now” as they used to say in the 70s – and then discuss the art you've seen with others.

Sunday's Readings:

Acts 1.1-11

Ephesians 1.17-23

Matthew 28.16-20

MAGDALA CONFERENCE IN ROME: SHARING INSIGHTS WITH THE PARISH

From April 28-30, participants from all over the world gathered for an international conference in Rome titled ‘Towards an Intrinsic Feminine Theology.’ Emily and Lucinda presented at this conference and Fr. Chris was in attendance as a representative of the Basilian Fathers who serve as the primary sponsor. This gathering was a tremendous success and we are pleased to share with you a link to an online video offering you an overview of the topics covered and introducing you to some of the presenters: <https://youtu.be/P0fxlgRIFjA>.

You are also most welcome to attend a gathering in which you can hear Emily's presentation, Fr. Chris' insights as a participant, and ask questions about our discoveries as we head into the third season of our Magdala conciliary meetings here in St. Basil's Parish. Come discover for yourself our community's exploration of feminine theology on **Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00pm in Macrina Hall**. All are welcome! No pre-registration is required.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING & FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FR. CHRIS

As you know, our community's Mass of Thanksgiving and farewell reception for Pastor Fr. Chris Valka will take place on **Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30pm** (with reception to follow in the newly renovated parish hall immediately following Mass). In order for things to run smoothly during the reception, volunteers are needed. If you are interested, please contact Stela in the main office. The reception will be a pot luck and your contributions will be gratefully accepted. You do not have to inform the main office about what you intend to bring. Contributions are not mandatory; your presence is most welcome. All we ask is that you kindly observe the following special requests when deciding on items to bring:

- Food is to be delivered by 2:00pm onwards on June 6 only (nothing can be stored ahead of time)
- We make a special request for contributions that do not require refrigeration or reheating

**ORGAN BENEDICTION AND CONCERT
FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 7:30PM**

After months of extensive restoration, the organ of Saint Basil's is unveiled in the Rite for the Benediction of an Organ. Join Frs. Chris and Morgan as they bless the newly-restored instrument. The short Benediction service will be followed by a brief intermission. The second half of our evening will include a concert of music celebrating the French heritage of the Basilian Fathers.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: AN UPDATE

Do you wonder how donated money is spent? Jay Nicholson, St. Vincent de Paul's Treasurer, wishes to inform you that this ministry has virtually no overhead! Of the \$69,223 disbursed by the St Basil's Conference of St Vincent de Paul in 2016, 98.5% went directly to our Neighbours-in-need in the form of food vouchers, clothing vouchers, Christmas baskets, and other assistance through 1373 personal at home visits by 17 volunteer parishioners, who go out 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. The remaining funds were for voucher printing, donor tax receipt postage and mandatory volunteer police background checks. We are an all donation, all volunteer charity outreach arm of your parish at work in your community. Thank you SO MUCH for your support and generosity!

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY

Volunteers will be on hand after all Masses on **June 3/4** to collect items or monetary donations for our pantry and outreach ministries. We are most in need of the following items required for our made-in-house menus:

- Oatmeal cookies, digestive cookies, social tea cookies, sandwich cookies, apple sauce, fruit cocktail, jello, pudding
- Vanilla extract, cinnamon powder, nutmeg powder, raisins, dried cranberries
- Canned chicken, canned diced tomatoes, canned slices black olives
- Seasoned croutons, caesar Salad dressing, olive oil, canola oil, balsamic vinegar

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, May 21, 2017 \$6,163.70



MASS INTENTIONS

MAY 28th - JUNE 3rd

- Sunday Ascension of the Lord**
9:00am- Corte Sisters (+)
10:30am- Pro Populo
12:00pm- Joseph Thomas Marotta (+)
4:30pm- Ryszard Brzezinski (+)
- Monday**
7:30am- Leonor Macalino (+)
12:10pm- Theodore and Basil
- Tuesday**
7:30am- Andrew Tiah (liv.)
12:10pm- Fr. Joseph Mancuso (+)
- Wednesday The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
7:30am-
12:10pm- Danielle Servos (+)
- Thursday Saint Justin**
7:30am-
12:10pm- Michael, Alexandria, Fiorina & Ernesto Di Pede (+), and Michael & Loran (liv.)
- Friday**
7:30am-
12:10pm- Vocations
- Saturday Saint Charles Lwnga and Companions**
5:00pm-

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Lucille Mirvish, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Concha Gaeitereiro, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Filomena La Rocca, Joseph Troncone, Hai Luen Liu, Neil McCormack, Jack Gervais, Barbara MacMahon-Firestone, and Loreto Manalo.

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