

I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to be Christian.

- St. Ignatius of Loyola

Often, however, one's pursuit of his or her own desires become in a way, another's obstacle. This is especially so since our pursuits may become entangled with those of others, leading to conflicts and resulting in broken relationships. It can happen between husbands and wives, family members, friends and colleagues, and even among us who are Christians. In such situations, Christian unity becomes a challenge. It is made worse by the idea of the much touted 'prosperity gospel' which promotes a sense of self-importance, so much so that certain church leaders may succumb to the temptation of popularity and sometimes, fame.

The Gospel of Matthew 20:28 focuses on the Christ who came to serve and to give his life for all. He is the model for every Christian. In this way, he ironically becomes the obstacle to our contemporary way of life. A Christ inspired life requires labour, sacrifice and perseverance, and is not about some dreamy notion nor ready-made solutions to life's problems. It starts with a little giving of ourselves through daily acts of charity, and may lead to a belief that may go as far as giving one's own life for others. After all, Christian love is not just a concept, but a concrete living out the faith (1 John 3:18: "let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth").

It is in living out such faith that we understand Jesus' call in wanting to draw us to himself. As he stated to the wise scribe in Mk 12:34: "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Perhaps over time and practice, we will come to understand the great importance of the connection of our lives with others. It is no wonder then that the words at the dismissal of the Mass "Ite, Missa est" means to "go forth!" **We are sent out to serve.** We may only appreciate its significance more when we realise that the sacrificial love of God finds its similar expression in love for our neighbour. †

Newtbec

4 NOVEMBER 2018

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

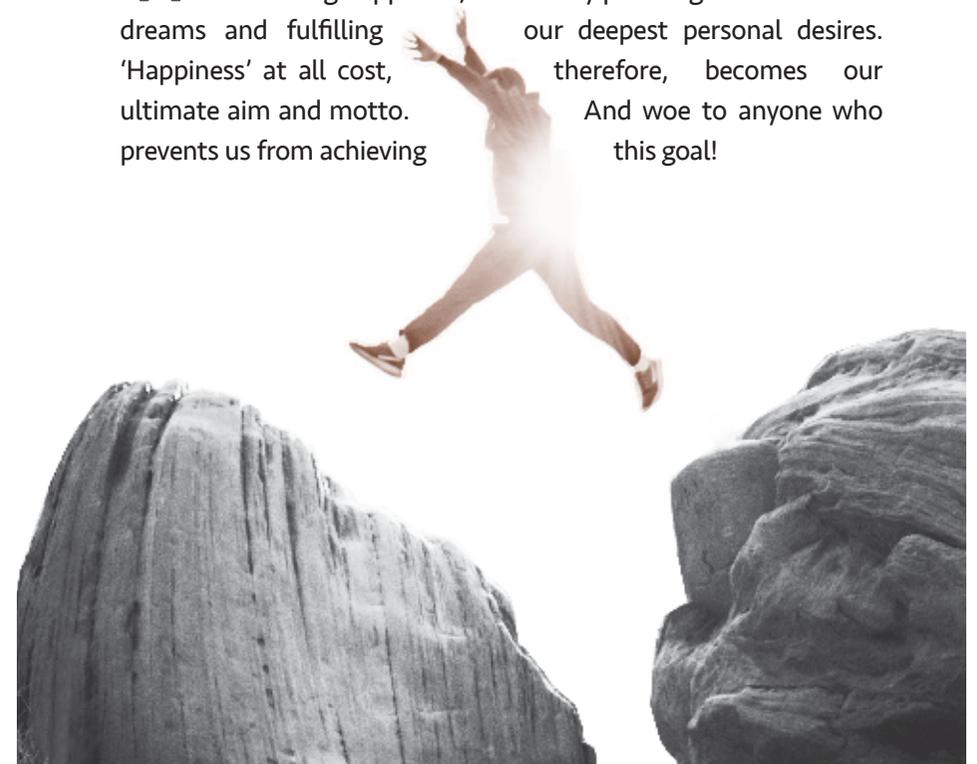
B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:

A CALL TO SAINTHOOD IN CHRIST

Going Beyond Myself

We often tend to live individualistic lives. We are so focused on chasing happiness, on actively pursuing unencumbered dreams and fulfilling our deepest personal desires. 'Happiness' at all cost, therefore, becomes our ultimate aim and motto. And woe to anyone who prevents us from achieving this goal!



Weekly
WORD

**We are sent
out to serve.**

I make myself a leper with the lepers to gain all to Jesus Christ.
 – St. Damian of Molokai

continue to be inspired by the daily stories of heroism. These 'heroes' are not the type that don capes or tight-fitting costumes. Ever heard of Tom Monaghan – who sold his Domino's Pizza chain for USD1 billion, and thereafter focused on building Catholic universities for young people, as well as, set up other Catholic establishments? Do you remember St Teresa of Calcutta who suggested that we "give till it hurts"?

Actually, we don't have to look far for heroes. Look around your parish or neighbourhood and search for your own heroes. If you look closely for the element of love for both God and neighbor, these heroes will spring up. We can relate this to a fellow parishioner who serves in the prison ministry or to a young mother, who despite her busy-ness at home and work, dedicates herself to the voluntary education service for the poor children in her community. What is heartwarming is that they have drawn other heroes to their cause.

It is through such heroes that we understand and appreciate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Such an act ensures the rejection of none, by being generous to all. There are no parades or rewards for this type of heroism. No one sees or notices or even applauds. Just the promise of Christ in Mt 6:4 that "Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you."

So what does it take to move you to live out your bit of heroism, that is, the sharing of your love to others? To take time to disconnect from the busyness in your life in order to claim a sense of magnificence from God and to offer it back to Him? Just like the poor woman who offered her precious two coins, do we dare say, "Here is my bit Lord!" The opportunity to do so is all around us since the causes are plenty. We don't need capes or tight fitting costumes. **We just have to obey Jesus to love and serve.** That's all it takes, and that is all that is needed. †

Weekly WORD
 We just have to obey Jesus to love and serve.

11 NOVEMBER 2018
Newtbec
 NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:
A CALL TO SAINTHOOD IN CHRIST



To Be
 A HERO

Most of us have grown up with 'heroes' in our lives. At different phases of life, certain 'heroes' dominate our thinking and influence our judgements and actions. My young son is reaching secondary school phase soon. He has shifted his interest from animals to marvel-type personalities who have superhuman capabilities, while I

The feeling remains that God is on the journey too.

- St. Teresa of Avila

remember vividly - your graduation, the first day at work, your wedding, the moment you held your first born, his or her first school day, and others. But there would have been also moments, such as, the countless arguments with your spouse, a family member or a friend, or moments when you were hurt. Painful moments.

Things change and we change. Our life is like a constant spinning wheel, perpetually on a journey. Some stops are beautiful and are happily seared into our memory. Others are just too painful. Most journeys are made alone, but occasionally we have good companions. Our companions may have been our parents, grandparents or guardians or our friends. It may be the soul mate who knows what your next word would be before you even say it.

There's no permanency in our state - our joys and pain, love and disappointments. Some emotional states stay longer with us than others. Some hurts stay because we cling to them. We cannot undo the past nor can we go back. We can, however, learn to live these events, for example, either on a positive note or allow the negative ones to affect us. Whatever it is, that is the choice of our journey.

Jesus gave us an assurance when he talks about life's journey, that is, what we do on the journey will decide the end. In other words, our daily life choices will determine our final destination, where we will either be with him or without him. However there is one constant that he offers us. He promises to accompany us, to walk with us through the path laid before us. This offer is guaranteed because God's love for us is forever. **All else may change but His love is constant.**

To agree to walk with Him, however, is to identify with Him and to journey on the path leading to the lost, lonely, the little and least. It is the path on which we choose to perpetuate life, to give our life to others like Jesus did. It is reassuring as we know that the world may end one day but we don't need to be fearful for we do not walk alone. †

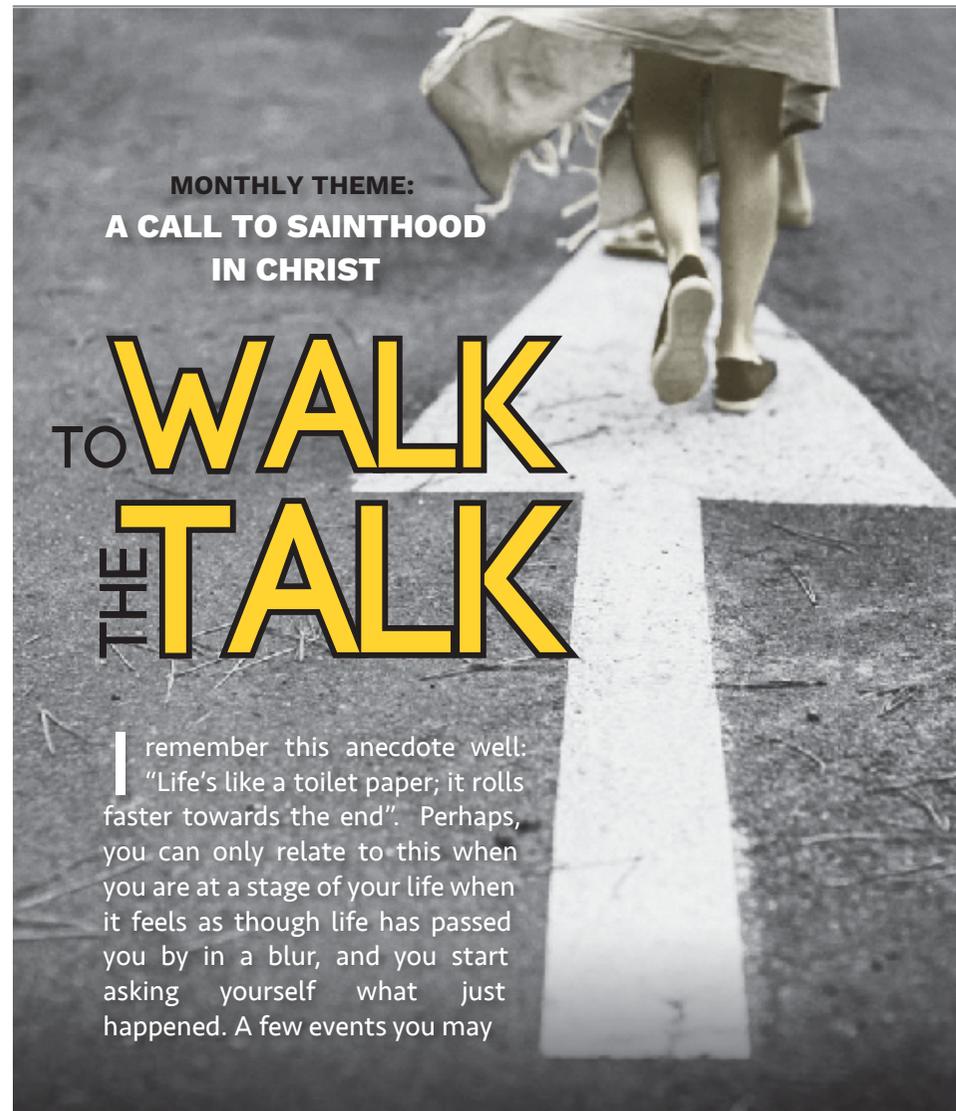
Weekly WORD

All else may change but His love is constant.

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E



**MONTHLY THEME:
A CALL TO SAINTHOOD
IN CHRIST**

**TO WALK
THE TALK**

Remember this anecdote well: "Life's like a toilet paper; it rolls faster towards the end". Perhaps, you can only relate to this when you are at a stage of your life when it feels as though life has passed you by in a blur, and you start asking yourself what just happened. A few events you may

The Lord is greater than all: I have said enough.

- St. Patrick

To allocate time for Jesus seems to be a chore these days. It is a burden that we prefer to do without, if possible. Some of us may claim to have done our part, such as, by performing our Catholic obligations or by attending Mass on Sundays. Surely God shouldn't expect more than these? It is like Pilate asking Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" In doing so, he separated his world and the Jewish world; their problem was not his problem, their God was not his god. Likewise, it may be that we too may be "separating" ourselves from Jesus when we claim that we do not have time for Jesus. Do we truly have time for Jesus?

Like Cain who chose poorly in his offering to God, we too may be "choosing poorly" in our relationship with Jesus. Jesus is not just the king of the Jews. He is our King. He is the Lord of our lives - our very being and existence. Everything that we do and feel has to be offered to him, for ultimately our lives belong to him. Jesus, our King and our brother, understands us and shares both our pain and joy. He is a most special King who loves us and gave his life for us. So we ask ourselves, "In our relationship with Jesus, do we choose wisely? Do we continue to retain our old selves as Cain did? Do we 'separate' our lives from Jesus as Pilate did? Or do we acknowledge that Jesus is our King and therefore, has Lordship over our entire lives? **Is Christ Jesus truly KING to you and me? †**

Weekly
WORD
Is Christ Jesus truly KING to you and me?

Newtbec

25 NOVEMBER 2018

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

Solemnity of Christ the King

B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:

A CALL TO SAINTHOOD IN CHRIST

Choosing WISELY

How many times have we heard people say they have no time to gather as a BEC or that they are leading busy lives or that Church comes after family? It seems to be a norm these days whether we want to admit it or not. Let's ask ourselves, if we are in love with our faith, how much time do we reflect in a day this same faith? Is Christ King in our lives, or are we ourselves king in his?

