



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$1,143

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Masses for the week of MAY 5, 2024 – MAY 11, 2024

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested by: |
|------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sun.-Sat. | 8:00 | Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA | |
| Sun. May 5 | 10:00 | Maureen Roache (Liv.) | |
| | 12:00 | Virgil & Laura Costa+ | Victoria Costa |
| Mon. May 6 | 9:30 | Sung Whan Choi (Liv.) | Juliana & Joseph Family |
| | 11:45 | Diane Crowell+ | Martha DiPaolo |
| Tue. May 7 | 9:30 | Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+ | |
| | 11:45 | Deceased Loved Ones | |
| Wed. May 8 | 9:30 | Memory of Joseph Choi & Mariana Cho+ | Juliana & Joseph Family |
| | 11:45 | Benedict & Anthony Walsh+ | Breda Walsh |
| Thurs. May 9 | 9:30 | Monica Kang Family | Cecilia Kay |
| | 11:45 | John G. Woerner+ | Marisa Pastore |
| Fri. May 10 | 9:30 | Mueller Family (Liv.) | Family Member |
| | 11:45 | Rosario & Josephine Costa+ | Victoria Costa |
| Sat. May 11 | 9:30 | Imelda Medina Leon+ | Cristina Ragas |
| | 11:45 | Mayo Lamorena+ Erlinda Lamorena+ | Family |

Today’s Readings:

First reading Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

We are all invited, regardless of our background, to discover a life of love in God.

Second reading 1 John 4:7-10

Everyone who loves knows God because God is love.

Gospel John 15:9-17

Our joy comes from knowing that we have been chosen, called, and sent



HOLY HOUR - SATURDAY, May 18, 2024

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

Illustration

Many years ago, a film based on a true story portrayed a young South American, Miguel, who sang a song that was infectious and spread to everyone who truly listened to its words. It told of life, love and freedom beyond the poverty and oppression that his people were experiencing, but the beautiful music of hope angered those in authority who dreamed of power and wealth. Before long, they arrested Miguel, promising him imprisonment and death if he refused to stop singing. He rejected their threats.

As he stood before the firing squad, the officer asked Miguel for his last words. Instead of speaking, he sang. As he died, his fellow prisoners, watching silently from their cell windows, started to sing Miguel's song, at first quietly and then ever more loudly. The song could not be destroyed. Miguel's music soared beyond the prison into the surrounding countryside, where the peasants working in the fields joined in the melody.

When the film was created, it was too risky to identify the Mexican Jesuit, Blessed Miguel Pro. At his execution on 23 November 1927, Miguel asked if he could briefly kneel and pray. Refusing a blindfold, he stood, forgave those who would kill him and extended his arms as though on the cross. He cried out “Viva Cristo Re!” – or, in English, “Long live Christ the King!” – and with those words, Miguel died. Forty thousand people lined the route of his funeral procession. Another twenty thousand waited at the cemetery, where no priest was allowed to conduct the burial. His song continues!

Gospel reading

Before ever Miguel began singing, Jesus showed “the power of one” and raised his voice with his message of undying love. Today's Gospel is Jesus' love song, taken from his words at the Last Supper, a moment when he knew that those closest to him would deny him and would hide in fear lest they suffer the same fate. Jesus did not condemn them for their betrayals and cowardice. Instead, he talked of love, aware that, within a very short time of speaking, he would be arrested and, rather than accept a life of silence, would sing his love song to Calvary. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” These lyrics accompanied his every breath, every step, until he had nothing left to give – and even then, he gave blood and water as the soldier's lance pierced his heart.

Jesus described his oneness with his Father, although, on the cross, he would cry out in agony, “My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?” Yet Jesus had, on an earlier occasion, said that his strength was made perfect in weakness. At the very moment of seemingly utter degradation, Jesus showed what “the power of one” can do. That is why Good Friday led to Easter Sunday. His resurrection made sense of the non-sense.

We are still in the Easter season. Calvary, the tomb and the resurrection are staging posts on our journey, but the link between them all is love that never dies and never ends.

Application

Aren't we crazy if we underestimate “the power of one”? It only takes one person with an idea, a message, a thought – a song – to touch the hearts of others and kindle a small flame. Sadly, we've often seen in the media the terrible results when love is in short supply, but we also witness the consequences when one person reaches out to another in love. It's like a pebble thrown into a pool of water, the ripples spread wider and wider. Without the pebble, the ripples would remain unborn. Without the power of one act of kindness, compassion, mercy or friendship, others wouldn't happen.

When the world in which we live is so hungry for love, why is it that we so often feel helpless and unable to do something to change things? Miguel Pro sang his song of hope at a time when his life was in danger and, by so doing, he gave others the courage that they needed to see the light at the end of the tunnel of hardship and oppression.

We have a proverb, “mighty oaks from little acorns grow”. Could I be the acorn which gives rise to the oak tree? I might not see the results of my act of kindness, but Miguel Pro did not know that his song and his death would inspire countless others to see Jesus' undying love. “The power of one” is all it takes to provide a lifeline to someone else.

Lord Jesus, make me an instrument of your love.

Living the Word