



Newsletter – January 2020

CFSM Singapore
2, Highland Road, #03-12
Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.c fsm.org.sg>

Forgiveness and Mercy

To prepare for Lent and Advent in most Catholic churches there will usually be penitential service for us to confess our sins and be reconciled with God. The priest will listen, bless us and request us to pray or do the penance that he prescribes.

As we enter the Church, each Parishioner will bless himself/herself with holy water by making the sign of cross to be at peace as we come to give thanksgiving to God. It is always a challenge for us whether we live the Gospel way after listening to the Word of God every weekend.

As the mass starts, we all pray the common and collective forgiveness prayer for all our sins in our daily lives committed and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness.

Case One: I remembered that many years ago when I was young a neighbour from our village owed a substantial amount of money to the neighbourhood provision shop owner. The basic provisions for the village were supplied to the families by the provision shop owner. Each family's credit note was recorded on a "555" note book. At the end of each month the debtors repaid their debts to the provision shop owner. This used to be a routine practice every month.

One of the debtors, the breadwinner in his family, was hospitalised and could not repay his debt on time. His wife approached the shop owner for an extension period. Due to the understanding and the concern that the provision shop owner had for that family, he told her not to worry too much and to repay the debts once her husband is able to work.

The goodwill, kindness and mercy shown to such families in difficult moments enabled these families to continue with their normal life without any fear.

Case Two: A loving father of three boys had a shocking experience when one of their sons was arrested due to a fight within the school premises. He was detained for one night and was sent to the Institute of Mental Health for further assessment by the police.

The next day the Social Worker discussed the case together with his parents, even, though it was very tense for it was their first experience. Upon his discharge, the parents welcomed him back whole heartedly and lovingly much to his surprise.

Even though his parents were disappointed as expected, they still encouraged him to continue his studies. Their approach of forgiveness was to accept him in a silent manner without discouraging him from his studies.

Case Three: In one of the Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC), it was a very difficult and challenging moment for all of us when one of our neighbour's daughters became pregnant though she was only a student. We had a long and lengthy discussion together as a neighbourhood group. At the end of the day both her parents accepted their daughter's decision to go without an abortion. It was a very bold and wise decision by their daughter. For her parents initially it was very painful but they acknowledged her decision and continued to support her in her journey.

Case Four: In our work environment I am sure we all had many encounters due to our nature of work. There is demand, expectation and time schedules to meet. With such competitive and challenging environments over the months and years it may cause differences and misunderstanding in our work places. However, the challenge is usually work related, and not the person so with all our experience it is a matter of forgiveness so as to build an environment of friendship and trust while at the same time accommodating our differences.

See

- a. Please share your personal experiences and encounters?
- b. Why must we forgive one another whether at home, family, at work or within the Church?
- c. What would be the consequences or impact if we fail to forgive one another?

Our Personal Reflection

- a. What did I discover or learn in the process of forgiving one another?
- b. Even if it is difficult to forgive what did I value most about forgiveness?

Christian Reflection

What does the Bible the Gospel and the Social Teaching of The Church, The Encyclicals, and The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us about the above situation?

Our Action/Response

- a. What can we do to forgive one another even if it is difficult sometimes?
- b. Can we be humble by letting go our pride and ego and by forgiving so as to grow in faith?

What is The Mercy of God in the Bible?

- a. "Be merciful like your Father is merciful" Luke 6:36

- b. "Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing" Luke 23:34

Our Need to Forgive

"And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have done against anyone, so that your father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done" Mark 11:25

ANNOUNCEMENT 

Father Christophe's 90th Birthday Celebration

CFSM cordially invites you and your family to the above celebration.

Date: Saturday, 15 February 2020

Time: 4pm to 7pm

Venue: Agape Village Multi-Purpose Hall

Cost: \$20 per pax

Please give your names and payment to your base group leader by 30 January 2020.

CFSM Annual General Meeting

CFSM members and their families are warmly invited to the CFSM AGM.

Date: Saturday, 29 February 2020

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Venue: CANA, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954

CFSM Exco Annual Retreat 2020

The annual leaders retreat was successfully held on the weekend of 11 and 12 January 2020. It was decided that CFSM will continue the following theme from 2019 for 2020 - "Challenges to restore our human dignity through the family in modern society".

Gentle Reminder

Subscription fees for 2020 are due. Please make your payment together with the completed subscription form to your base group leaders. Payment by 31 January 2020 will be greatly appreciated.