

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”
~St. Augustine



A Weekly Publication of Our Lady of Penafrancia Basilica and National Shrine, Naga City, 4400 Philippines

September 2, 2012

www.penafrancia.org.ph

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

True Worship Comes from the Heart

Fr. Dioscoro Ibanita

Jesus is warning us to be on guard against merely external compliance in the way we worship God. If we are to keep our worship true and pleasing to God, we need to focus what we are doing to what is in our hearts.

Jesus is telling us that while man looks at what we are doing externally; God looks at our hearts and for sure we cannot deceive him. He is demanding that our innermost action stand up to God's scrutiny. We should be continually searching out what God wants of us, purifying the way we live and the way we practice our religion. Hence, where our hearts should be consistent with what we are doing. We hope that when looking at us the Lord would not complain, "This people pays me lip service, but their hearts is far from me"



(Mk. 7:6). For Christian life is an affair of the heart. That is why we need often to purify our heart and keep it set on love.

However, the problem with some of us while doing our Sunday obligation are just do-

ing it routinary and without real devotion into their hearts. This is precisely what our Lord is condemning the Pharisees – their lip service worship.

There's no denying that some members of every Sunday con-

gregation fall into the category of spectators. Remember, going to Holy Communion is good providing that we are striving to become more Christ-like in our daily lives.

Indeed, we are reminded that wearing a religious medal or perhaps going on pilgrimage does not necessarily make us good Christians. Joined hands are no substitute for sincere prayers, coming from the heart. It is very easy to depart from God's will and appear religious at the same time, but lip service however, well performed, fall short of true worship. To be more than Sunday Christians, the love of God must flow into our daily lives and into our work place.

For our worship is meaningless unless it proceeds from a sincere hearts.

DAILY READINGS

Sept. 2 Sun: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8
Jas 1:17-18,
Mk 7:1-8, 21-23
Sept 3 Mon: 1 Cor 2:1-5
Lk 4:16-30
Sept 4 Tues: 1Cor 2:10b-16
Lk 4:31-37
Sept 5 Wed: 1Cor 3:1-9
Lk 4:38-44
Sept 6 Thur: 1 Cor 3:18-23
Lk 5:1-11
Sept 7 Fri: 1 Cor 4:1-5
Lk 5:33-39
Sept 8 Sat: Mi 5:1-4a/
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Sunday Gospel

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

--For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. -- So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.

All these evils come from within and they defile."

"Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person"

St. Gregory the Great (Sept 3)



St. Gregory was born at Rome in 540. He was successively senator and prefect of Rome before the age of 30. After five years he resigned and became a monk, transforming his own house into a Benedictine monastery, and founding six others. At the age of 50 he was elected pope, serving from 590 to 604. In 14 years he accomplished much for the Mystical Body of Christ.

After seeing English children being sold as slaves in Rome, he sent 40 monks, including St. Augustine of Canterbury, from his own monastery to make "the Angles angels." England owes her conversion to him. At a period when the invasion of the barbarian Lombards created a new situation in Europe, he played a great part in winning them for Christ. When Rome itself was under attack, he personally went to interview the Lombard King.

At the same time he watched equally over the holiness of the clergy and the maintenance of Church discipline, the temporal interests of his people of Rome and the spiritual interests of all Christendom. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, and emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and victims of plague and famine. These deeds and others made him, in the words of an antiphon in his office, "the Father of the City, the joy of the World."

Gregory reformed the liturgy, and it still contains several of his most beautiful prayers. The name "Gregorian chant" recalls this great Pope's work in the development of the Church's music. His commentaries on Holy Scripture exercised a considerable influence on Christian thought in the Middle Ages. St. Gregory died on March 12, 604. His body lies at St. Peter's in Rome.



(The Novenario in honor of the Divino Rostro started last August 29 and its Feast day will be on Sept 7)

The presence of evil in the world is becoming even bolder as manifested by a series of shocking news of violence, heinous crimes, war, and injustice. It is important to remember, however, that evil is real and often times it lurks in the hearts of men and women who have allowed themselves to be influenced by the power of Satan.

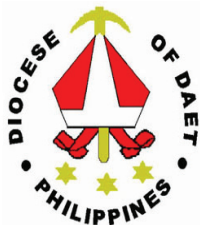
We are often tempted by Satan especially when we are far away from God, when we live in the state of sin. The truth about spiritual battle against evil is that we can never defeat Satan without Jesus Christ. In fact, it is through the power of Jesus and in his name that we can overcome all forces of evil in our midst.

The Divino Rostro is our protection from all harm and evil. Through Christ who has conquered evil by his suffering, death, and resurrection, we can overcome the insidious snares of the devil. Our devotion to Divino Rostro makes us confident that in spite of the presence of evil in the world, we are hopeful that the power of God can cast away the darkness of evil and that goodness shall prevail.

One of the effects of our devotion to Divino Rostro is that we strive to live the goodness that is in us through constant prayer, and by turning away from the influences of evil in our lives. Thus we need to avoid all occasions that can lead us to sin. With our own strength we shall fail but with the strength that comes from Divino Rostro we can find the will to remain in God even when assailed by the forces of evil.

- Fr. Andrew Reception

FEATURE

**DIOCESE OF DAET CELEBRATES JUBILEE**

The Diocese of Daet, with jurisdiction over the Province of Camarines Norte and suffragan to the Archdiocese of Caceres, was created on May 27, 1974 by Pope Paul VI. Most Rev. Celestino R. Enverga, D.D. as the first bishop of the Diocese. The current and 3rd Bishop of Daet is Most Rev. Gilbert A. Garcera, D.D. The Diocese of Daet has 72 priests serving its 36 parishes and other institutions.

On September 1, 2012 will be a momentous event for the whole Diocese of Daet...we will be celebrating the Coronation of Nstr. Sra de Candelaria and the Closing of the Quadricentennial Celebration of the First Three Parishes in the Diocese namely the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Daet; St. Peter the Apostle, Vinzons; Our Lady of Candelaria, Paracale.

Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, DD of Caceres will be the main celebrant and preacher of the Eucharistic Celebration at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Daet together with the Bicol Bishops



Pope: first person to sign up in WYD 2013

Germans are known for being punctual, so perhaps it should be no surprise that Pope Benedict XVI was the first person signed up for World Youth Day 2013.

Registration officially opened Aug. 28, and, according to organizers, the pope was the first pilgrim to be registered for the event, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro July 23-28.

Organizers said that more than 220 groups of young people from five continents signed up in the first 24 hours after registration opened. Pilgrims from the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Aruba and the United Arab Emirates were among the first of the early registrants.



Pope: On Christian Unity

Pope Benedict XVI's decision to meet with his former students for a discussion about ecumenical relations, especially Catholic relations with Anglicans and Lutherans, demonstrates the importance he gives the search for Christian unity, said Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna. The Austrian cardinal, one of the former doctoral students of the former Professor Joseph Ratzinger, spoke to Vatican Radio Aug. 30, the eve of the annual three-day meeting of the "Ratzinger Schulerkreis" -- literally, the Ratzinger student circle. "The fact that the Holy Father chose this theme for this year's meeting is a sign that for him the ecumenical question is of primary importance," especially as the Catholic Church prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.



Archdiocesan News

Working Together to INA



Naga City Mayor John G. Bongat and Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi lead the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement reconvening the Joint Operations Center to enforce order and provide public utility services including the PNP, military, local media and major public utility agencies such as the DPWH, Casureco II, and the Metro Naga Water District, to ensure an orderly and peaceful conduct of the 2012 Peñafrancia fiesta. The said event took place at the Archbishop's Residence last August 29.

Divino Rostro Novenario Starts



The Clergy of Caceres with the Archbishop brought the Divino Rostro Image from the Basilica to the Peñafrancia Old Shrine last August 28 to mark the beginning of the Fiesta celebrations of the Archdiocese



BASILICA NEWS

Archbishop Leads the Basilica Blessing



Photo: Jojo Prieto

Archbishop Legaspi officiated the blessing of the Basilica Office, Priests Dining Hall, Pilgrims Inn, DM Canteen and the JP2 Prayer Garden last August 28 with the Caceres clergy.

DIOS MABALOS!

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PENAFRANCIA FIESTA 2012

August 28 - 5pm - Mass at the Basilica
Procession to Penafrancia Parish
August 29 - 8am - Harubay para ki INA
(Basilica Assembly)
August 29-Sept 7 - Novenario (Divino Rostro)
Sept 6-16 - 3rd Bishop Gainza Trade Fair
Sept. 7 - 3:30am - Dawn Procession
Basilica-Penafrancia Parish
3pm - Traslacion Procession to Cathedral
5pm -Mass (Archbishop Legaspi)
Start of Novenario in honor of INA
Sept 15 - 4pm Fluvial Procession
Mass (Archbishop Chito Tagle)
Sept 16 - FEASTDAY OF INA

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