



The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

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Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales & AMM Adelaide, South Australia

27th Nov 2021 Feast of the Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

Gospel reflection:

25th Sunday in ordinary Time. (Year B) Mark 9: 30-37.

“After leaving the Mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death, and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ but they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ They said nothing because they were arguing which of them was the greatest’ So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be the first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.’ He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’ ”

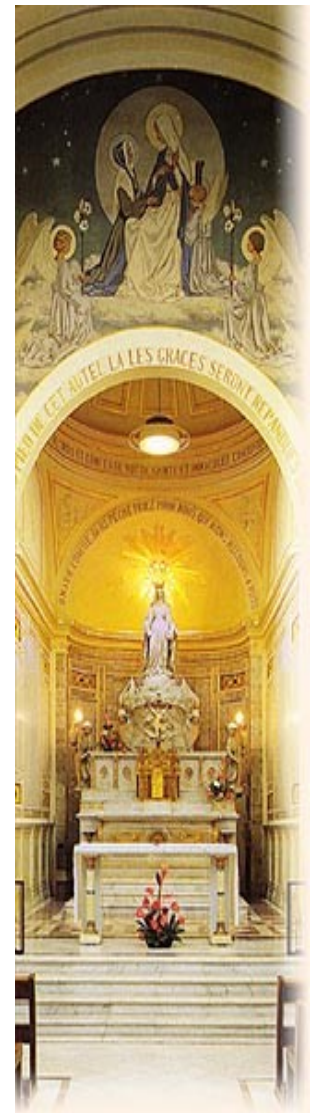
Reflection:

We notice an interesting structure in this passage. First, we have a Passion prediction (the second of these in Mark), followed by an exhortation to live out the cross in Christian life, which is expressed in terms of servanthood and humility. It appears that Mark is responsible for the ordering of this material. He is speaking against the false teachers of his time, who understand Christ as a divine miracle worker and themselves as his successors. Against this false idea of Christ, and the false concept of ministry, Mark sets the ideal of the suffering servant, of service and humility exemplified in the cross. In this passage we meet the important word ‘diakonos’, translated here as ‘servant’. The servant is in relation not to the needy, but to the master. The servant is one who faithfully carried out a commission given by the Christian community. The precise way in which the individual Christian contributes to the mission of the Christian community will be determined by the gifts of the Spirit which he or she is given. In Jesus’ world, a child received all the love that children receive in any culture. Jesus takes a little child, as a symbol of the smallest and least significant of human beings, and, by the tenderness of his welcome and the respect he gives the child, instructs his disciples that they must see themselves as sent by God to the least. We might ask ourselves, just how that call relates to my Baptismal call today. How do I see my call to humility and to servanthood in my world today?

Fr. Kevin Canty, CM

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Director General

The Association of the Miraculous Medal

June 28, 2021

To All National Association Leaders,

Greetings to you in the Joy of Risen Lord. May the gift of the Miraculous Medal be our constant source of guidance and help.

At the Executive Council Meeting of March 26, 2021, we discussed and recognized the need for communication, especially the National Associations with each other.

The discussion concluded that meeting over the internet (zoom or skype etc.), when grouped by language, increases communication. These can work very well among the National Associations. Language “regions” could meet two or more times a year, supported by a member of the International Council.

These meetings can discuss actions that make the Association alive in your country. These activities include acquiring new members and creating new local associations; celebrations of prayer; works for the needy; and activities for financial support.

These meetings will facilitate your ability to post pictures, membership meetings, upcoming events, and possible gatherings on the international website. Our continued updating of our website is critical for our active presence on the World Wide Web.

Our sub-Director General, Fr. Carl Pieber, CM, (cpieber@msn.com) will implement this directive. He will contact you soon with more information and an organizational plan. He is also available for your questions. I ask that you fully cooperate with him to establish this increased communication within the Miraculous Medal Association.

Together, let us implore our patron and mother, Mary, to guide and bless us in this activity.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

Tomaz Mavric CM
Director General,
Miraculous Medal Association



Fr Carl Pieber, CM, the Subdirector General, has since contacted the AMM around the world regarding these Regions. We are in Region G, our coordinator is Fr Rolando Limjoco, CM., from the Philippines. This region includes India North, India South, Australia, Philippines, Laos, and Thailand. We will keep our members informed of what helpful information is received from the communications we make with these other Associations within this region. It should be helpful learning from others regarding what they are doing in their countries to foster devotion to Our lady of the Miraculous Medal, as well as learning about their devotions and practices.

SPRING;

Some suggestions for prayer during this Season of Spring:

Praying with the Gospel of Spring:

1. Read and reflect on *John 11:1-44*.

Lazarus, like an opening bud, comes out of the tomb. He is still bound but is received back into the hands of the artist in the assembly. Gently they unbind him and set him free. Leaving death behind he steps back into life. What still binds me as I reflect on my life now, with its fear of a virus, with lockdowns and separation from loved ones. Who are those who can, through their love and concern, help to unbind me and bring me to hope and freedom?



2. Read and reflect on *John 20: 10-18*:

Mary, weeping at the tomb, is experiencing the terrible darkness of the death of Jesus. She has not yet seen the hope that stands waiting in the garden. Then suddenly Jesus calls her by name and winter leaps into spring. Can you recall a time when your name was spoken, and this experience was a gift of life?

3. Read and reflect on *John 5:1-9*:

A nameless man is lying by the pool. 38 years is a very long winter. The gospel of spring was far away until he heard the question that was also an invitation: 'Do you want to be healed?' and 'Would you like to arise from your bondage and be set free?' 'Take up your mat and go home.'

What about me? What is the mat of bondage that prevents me from leaping out of winter into spring?

Suggested Gospel texts were provided by Sr Joyce Rupp OSM, and Sr Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, in their Book: "The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons." 2005 Sorin Books, Notre Dame, Indiana. (Ed.)



September 27, 2021: Feast of St Vincent de Paul.

The Association of the Miraculous Medal, was officially approved by Pope Pius X on July 8, 1909. This approval assumed that the Association would be under the direction of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity. The AMM therefore belongs to the Vincentian Family in a very special way. In this month of September, I thought it is fitting to offer some reflection on St Vincent for our readers of our AMM bulletin.

We know that St Vincent de Paul was an extremely active man, very committed to what he saw as his vocation and the vocation of his followers. During his life he suffered from illness, from many varied complaints, and these intensified during his last years. No matter what his state of health was at a particular time, he would rise at 4.00 each morning to be with his confreres for prayer, which was followed by the customary order of the day, and for Vincent, the business of the day. From 1656 until his death, one could say he had entered his final illness, and his health deteriorated. His own confreres as well as many others outside the community tried to offer assistance with many suggestions about remedies and advice as to how he should be cared for. He found it hard to move around, and at first used a stick and then crutches. On August 15, 1660, he eventually allowed himself to be carried to the chapel, since he could not manage the crutches. His sleepless nights were alternated with intermittent naps during the day when he would doze off for long periods. This was a time of great suffering for him. However, he would say with a smile: 'It is the brother going on ahead to say the sister is coming'. It was certain that his death was not far away.

Back in 1658, one of his missionaries had written to an absent companion telling him that Vincent had not long to live, and that this missionary had not seen him make any special preparation for death. As was the custom (what many of us, his missionaries today, experienced in our time of formation), he put the letter through the Superior's letter box for posting. Vincent read the letter and wondered whether there was some kind of admonition there for him, and whether perhaps he was cause for scandal. He called for the priest, who was very embarrassed, and spoke to him about what Vincent took as an admonition. The priest declared that any admonition was far from his thoughts or intention, and eventually Vincent was convinced that no admonition was intended. But to dispel any possible cause for scandal, Vincent said to the priest "As for the admonition I thought you wanted to give me, I will tell you, in all simplicity, that God has granted me the grace of not acting in the way you mentioned. I tell you this so that you will not be scandalised on not seeing me make any special preparations. For the past eighteen years I have never gone to bed without first putting myself in the right dispositions to die that night."

One of his priests, Fr Gicquel, has given us a detailed diary of Vincent's last days. On the night of Sunday September 26th, 1660, Vincent received the last sacraments. His priests and brothers took it in turn to sit up with him all through the night. Vincent, himself, was fully dressed when he died, sitting in a chair by the fireplace. He prayed, or mumbled antiphons and he seemed to have had a particular liking for the antiphon that commences the Divine Office, "O God, come to our aid!" His last word before entering the death throes was "Jesus". He breathed his last at about a quarter to five on the morning of Monday, September 27th, without any convulsions or struggle.

Earlier, Vincent had written to a priest who was jealous of the pastoral successes of another; "Must not a priest die of shame for claiming a reputation in the service he gives to God and for dying in his bed, when he sees Jesus Christ rewarded for his work by disgrace and the gibbet. Remember, Monsieur, we live in Jesus Christ through the death of Jesus Christ, and we must die in Jesus Christ through the life of Jesus Christ, and our life must be hidden in Jesus Christ and filled with Jesus Christ, and in order to die as Jesus Christ, we must live as Jesus Christ." (SVP I p 276) Vincent's preparation for death was the life lived in Jesus who had called him to do as Jesus did, "to bring the good news to the poor'. (Luke 4;18) Even during those final days of his life here on earth, his humble dedication and faithfulness to his vocation and to all that concerned the mission entrusted to him was evident. He died as he had lived, the ever faithful servant of Christ and the poor.

As we celebrate his feast this September, may his prayers help us to be faithful to our baptismal call as members of the Miraculous Medal Association.

St Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

Fr Kevin Canty, CM. (National Director)