

Chaplaincy Newsletter

ISSUE
5
2020/21



Saintly Inspirations

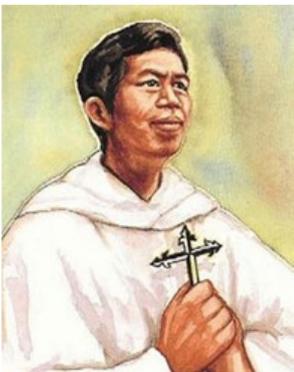
St Gertrude - Feast Day November 16th

St. Gertrude was born at Eisleben in Saxony, Germany, in 1256. At the age of five, she was placed in the care of the Benedictine nuns at Rodalsdorf and later became a nun in the same monastery, of which she was elected Abbess. The following year she was obliged to take charge of the monastery at Helfta, to which she moved with her nuns.

St. Gertrude had enjoyed a good education. She wrote and composed in Latin, and was competent in Sacred Literature. The life of Gertrude, though not full of stirring events and striking actions, was one of great mental activity. It was the mystic life of the convent, a life hidden with Christ in God. She was known for her great devotion to the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord in His Passion and in the Blessed Eucharist, and by her love for the Blessed Virgin. Gertrude died around 1302.



St Andrew Dung-Lac and his Companions - Feast Day November 24th



St. Andrew was one of 117 people who were martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862.

Although they died at different times, they were all canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 19, 1988. Of the group, 96 were Vietnamese, 11 were Spaniards, and 10 were French. There were 8 bishops, 50 priests and 59 lay Catholics in the group. Of the priests, 11 were Dominicans, 10 belonged to the Paris Mission Society, and the rest were diocesan priests plus one seminarian. Certain individual martyrs were mentioned by name in the process of canonization, Andrew Dung-Lac being one of them.

Chaplaincy News.....

This week, and up until Wednesday 25th November, we as a school community, and our partners in the Emmaus Trust, will be highlighting the work of The Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). ACN supports the Catholic faithful and other Christians where they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need.

Over the last five years the ACN has run their #RedWednesday campaign which has been hugely successful in drawing attention to the human rights tragedy of Christians and other religious persecutions. The campaign is now a global initiative, endorsed by the UK government. Each day, through the Red Wednesday Novena, our students will hear about an individual or group of people who ACN are helping and offer prayers for their intentions or that situation.

In the Chapel we have our 'red corner', a focal point for prayer for those who are being persecuted for their faith.

#RedWednesday

All Things for Christ



Matthew 25:14-30 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sunday's Gospel was the parable of the "talents." In this story the master of the house is going on a fairly long journey and he wants to safeguard his money while he is away. He gave one servant five talents, the second servant two talents and the third one was given one talent. The master, however, had an unspoken expectation. The master expected these servants to increase the amount of his money while he was gone.

The first servant and the second servant did what the master expected. They took the money and invested it. These investments increased the master's money significantly. The increase varied but the master was extremely pleased with these servants. They had been excellent stewards of his resources.

The third servant, however, was a fearful person. He knew his master could be harsh at times. This servant decided that he simply would keep the master's money safe. He buried the money in the ground and then waited for the master to return.

When the master finally did return, naturally he asked the servants for an accounting. Each servant came and reported what they had done with his money. The master was very pleased with the first two servants. Their investments had made him more money. However, the master was not pleased with the third servant. Yes, the man kept his money safe, but the master had expected him to use it well and increase the amount of money — at least to some degree. Burying the money in the ground kept it safe but the master expected more.

How do we steward the resources that God has given us? Do we use them well and invest them wisely? Do we share them with others? Or do we hide them or dismiss them as insignificant? All our resources are given to us to share with others and the world. Do we believe that the resources or gifts we have are "good enough?"



O Lord our God, You alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations. We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things. Protect, O Lord our King, our families and the land of our birth.

Amen

Don't forget!

We take donations for the Ealing Foodbank all year round.

The collection box is in the RE Office, on the 1st floor of Jerusalem.