

# The Power Of Your Love

***After this Lenten season, we're called to follow Him with a loving and meek heart as Jesus has loved us first.***

With a total of 40 days in holy observance beginning from the week of Ash Wednesday to a closing on Easter Sunday, Christians all around the world are celebrating Lent in accordance with the Bible's retelling of Jesus' final days on earth until His resurrection. Some might've wondered how the Almighty Christ had obediently followed God's plan despite death being the final act, and what it takes to be like Jesus as we carry our own crosses daily. He actually had told us that the answer is love and humility to, and from, God Himself—as taught in the Beatitudes during the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:5, 10).

These days, not all of us are called to be bodily persecuted like Jesus did, but we all have our own missions in life that would conjure up different sorts of persecution and challenges from the people around us—even from our loved ones just like He experienced. We are called to be meek and humble to follow Jesus in the face of it all even though we have the free will to choose our own reaction. It is all about bringing glory to His name by exposing our weaknesses and boasting in the Lord who strengthens us—simply because He loves us first, and always will.

"We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured! We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly." (1 Corinthians 4:10, 12-13).

This is the way to be meek yet strong in God as Jesus had shown us during His crucifixion. The key for such meekness to happen, and to fuel the difficult, rather contrary actions that it entails, is love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).



## Get Involved !

### CFJ Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, 7 PM

Venue : Will be broadcasted weekly

Contact Person :

Kelvin Sutandar (+62 812-8183-4550)

### CFJ Choir Practice

Tuesday, 7 PM

Venue : Ambiente Jln. Senopati no. 70

Contact Person :

Fransiska Darmawan

(+62 812-8183-4550)

### CFJ Kids

Weekly Sunday School, 11 AM

Venue : Gereja Katolik St.Perawan

Maria Ratu (Blok Q Church)

Contact Person :

Krista Oen (+62 813-8108-9798)

Friska Ruslim (+62 812-6743-218)

### CFJ Mass Servers

Lectors & Altar servers

Contact Person :

Felicia Husada (+62 821-6101-9933)

### CFJ Newsletter Team

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Anita Marla (+62 817-6067-020)

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Contact Person :

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He knew His mission and pain as the Son of God, including those of Judas and Peter's betrayal, and the scattering of the disciples. In the end, the Son of Man still followed God's plan, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39). The love Jesus has for the Father in heaven is the key to meekly abide in Him, which, by no means, is equal to being weak and powerless by not retaliating back.

"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?" (Matthew 26:53-54). Out of love, the powerful Lion of Judah had turned silent into the Lamb of God being led to slaughter, and He's fighting for us by not fighting back on those who hung Him on the cross.

Should we abide in Him like Jesus does, we are capable of staying meek yet strong amid all the pressures from the world around us that is not of one mind and love in Him, as Isaiah simply wrote, "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced." (Isaiah 50:7). Agreeing with the prophet, Paul detailed in his letter about this seemingly strange connection between these two opposite traits, according to the earthly standards, and why they are important in the mission to carry our crosses.

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

Now that the Lenten season has reached its peak with Jesus being risen from death, let our reflection on God's unending and enduring love for humankind power us through the rest of the year—especially during these difficult times. Let's not be afraid to humbly and lovingly follow our calling in His footsteps to be closer to Christ's likeness with a meek heart; remember, He is there for you within a prayer's reach: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

***Edith***

*CFJ Newsletter editor*





# Faith in the Time of Corona

## *Midweek Musings on the State of Our Faith*

Just like many of you, I have taken this coronavirus containment thing (maybe a tad too) seriously; I've limited my physical interaction with other human beings to those I meet at home, and to people I have to share oxygen with en route from my car to my office cubicle. As someone who works at a pharmacy company providing medicine to tackle various diseases, we're expected to stay operational with precautions observed until a total lockdown order is enacted. Since I've decided to completely avoid crowded places, such as gyms, malls, and restaurants, spending my nights at home has resulted in an overload of Netflix, Insta-stories and Bible reading.

It is the interface between the latter two activities, which are done while taking a break from the first one, that has resulted in an interesting observation (inside my mind, at least): the state of our Christian life today amid the coronavirus pandemic has in a way revert us back to life during the early Church—please feel free to correct me accordingly since Acts of the Apostles is one of the few New Testament books I haven't read in its entirety. Here are the reasons why:

1. The early Christians were very much an oppressed group, and they had to practice their faith and worship in secret out of fear for the Romans' persecution, not to mention the Jews and the Greeks also. Should they be discovered, the Romans might do violent stuff as a punishment—sadly, this situation still happens to many of our fellow faithfuls living under brutal regimes. As such, these people do not have big-scale worship gatherings but instead they pray and worship in small groups at each other's houses.
2. A consequence of this small cell-group structure is that not all groups have an apostle or a deacon to lead them, and they had to cope with worshipping and reading distributed materials—be it the Gospel of Christ Jesus or letters from the apostles, such as Paul and others as well—on their own.



What struck me as interesting is that, firstly, exercising our faith during this time of corona is very similar to the conditions many Christians face back then. The fear of us contracting and spreading the coronavirus takes the place of fear for the oppressors, preventing us from joining church gatherings and receiving teachings or sermons online (a modern-day version of the letters from the apostle) in smaller groups. Secondly, just like during the early days of the Church, those who still seek God's words and teachings in these trying times will be the ones who truly thirst for His presence in their life, and would go to lengths to receive it.

Although somehow the first observation saddens me, especially as a Catholic for whom receiving the Body of Christ every Sunday is a foundational part of my faith, the latter one encourages me. Too often have I seen (young) people taking Sunday services for granted, those who came not to listen to the pastor's words but instead to mingle and "socialise" with friends; listening to God's words and teachings just became a part of Sundays routine that needs to be done before they can go to lunch and coffee afterwards.

I hope that today, when access to God's words and teachings is somewhat "harder" to attain with extra effort needed, many of us will come to appreciate His words and teachings more deeply and profoundly. As a popular meme goes, our forerunners in the early Church were called to risk their lives to commune with God; meanwhile, we are simply asked to go online and pay full attention for that one hour or so. May we get closer to God during these challenging times.

***Dennis Widjaja***

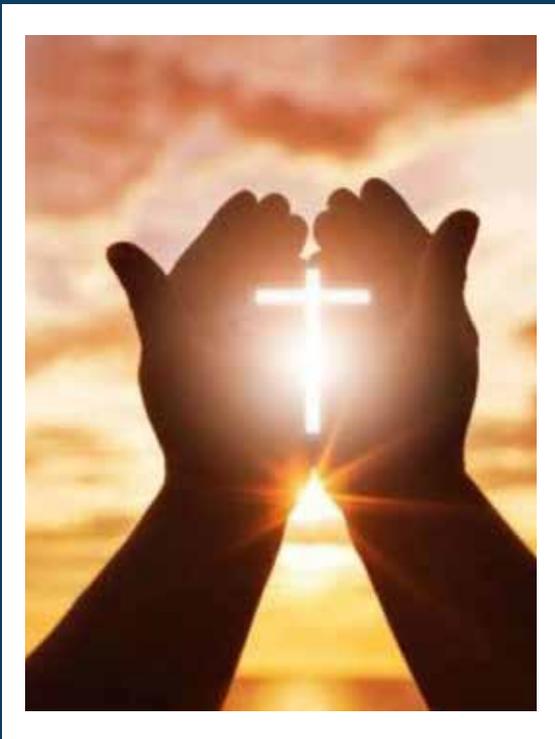
*CFJ Vice President*

# Spiritual Communion in the time of Corona

Two weeks ago when I received news that mass was cancelled, I thought that it was a wise and necessary decision to protect all of us. However, when I attended my first online mass and prayed the Spiritual Communion prayer for the first time, I shed tears and realised that I was longing for Christ in the form of the Holy Communion.

Ideally, reception of the Eucharist involves both dimensions of physical and spiritual reception of Christ. Being temporarily deprived of the physical Sacramental reception of the Eucharist, the Church warmly encourages us to make the Spiritual Communion. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote, "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you."

Simply put, Spiritual Communion is when a person has an ardent desire to unite his person with Jesus. Just like it is written in the Psalm 42:1 that, "As the deer yearns for running water, so my soul longs for you, O Lord, my God," we are called to imitate the deer that yearns for an ardent longing, yearning, and passionate desire to receive Jesus at least spiritually into the very depths of our heart and soul.



**Anita Marla**

*CFJ Head of Newsletter &  
CFJ Praise and Worship member*

When practicing the Spiritual Communion, Saint Peter offers us advice to cast out all of our fears, worries and anxieties upon Jesus for the simple reason that He knows us, and loves us to the extreme point of shedding His Precious Blood on the cross for the eternal salvation of our souls. God's love is perennial; God's love is eternal; and God's love has no limits even without the Mass or any sacrament: if we desire this Gift, He invites us to come, and we only have to notice and to follow on His most generous invitation.

There are some prayers that can be recited during the Spiritual Communion including Anima Christi, Prayer before the Crucifix, the Divine Praises and Hail Mary. However, the most important aspect of making a Spiritual Communion is the ardent longing, yearning and love that is burning in the heart of each individual to receive Jesus.



# Love in the Time of Corona

What does the Bible teach us about fear? John writes that, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

Our love is grounded in the confession of Jesus as the Son of God, and the example of God’s love for us. God is love. A Christian life is consequently founded on the knowledge of God as love and on His continuing presence that relieves us from fear. As Christians who are living through today’s bizarre reality of a pandemic with no clear end in sight, it is our calling to strive, each and every day, to continue showing up for our brothers and sisters in need with a love that is sincere, authentic, and merciful.

After all, the knowledge that Christ has saved us gives us confidence even as we live, love and suffer in this world. Christian love is not an abstract thought but lived in a concrete manner of how we love one another. Let us take courage and proclaim God’s love in our communities, and to arm us against fear with Christly acts of love and kindness. God bless you all.

What did they think about love in the time of Corona! Listen to their sharings in the next page!



# How do you love your neighbor while social distancing?



***Amanda Christie***

*CFJ Head of Praise & Worship*

Love is a beautiful four-letter word. Especially during times like this in which spreading love around is absolutely imperative because humanity needs love. But, faced with the current circumstances, how do we spread love when we are physically apart?

There are five types of love languages: Acts of Service, Gift Giving, Quality Time, Words of Affirmation and Physical Touch. Take note that physical touch is only one out of five ways that we can express love. Expressing love can be done even when you're #stayingathome, for example by calling an old friend to check up on how they are doing (Quality Time), donating masks or protective gears to the medical workers and those in need (Gift Giving), telling your family members how much you love and appreciate them (Words of Affirmation), and purchasing food or items from local vendors to keep their businesses running (Acts of Service).

A simple act of love creates hope, so "Do everything in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)



***Fransiska Darmawan***

*CFJ Head of Choir*

CFJ has been my home to serve for the past six years, however, with no activities happening for the past three weeks, it is becoming harder to keep a positive spirit. I have been missing our regular choir practice, which is why one day we decided to try to make a virtual choir. We may be staying home but continue to sing with joy in efforts to continue giving a message of hope through music.

We encourage everyone who watches the video to pay it forward by doing one small act of kindness to the people around them. It can be as simple as praying for others, calling on your grandparents, giving a bigger tip for your online delivery driver, or pretty much anything that will brighten up someone's day! Personally, I am very touched by the choir team's enthusiasm and efforts to make this virtual choir happen.

This proves that wherever we are in our separation of physical distances, we all can choose to be kind.