

Service

"For **God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work.**" - Philippians 2:13. We need to grow as a human being, as a Christian, because to follow Christ means to change, to grow and to work on HIS good purpose for you. Often we feel that we know what our purpose is in life already, or maybe we don't know at all. What we forget is that, who would know best about our purpose in this life if not for our own Creator - God. "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*" - Jeremiah 1:5. Hence, the purpose that we all are gifted with did not come from ourselves but from God who has set us apart even before we were born.

Let us understand better the difference between **Serving with a purpose VS Serving as a purpose.** In Matthew 20:1-16 it talks about the parable of the workers in the vineyard. So these workers who have worked tirelessly since the morning, and they expected to receive a bigger share or 'blessing', however this did not happen and the Master gave each of them equal shares instead. These workers were serving a purpose, they slayed away in the vineyard and worked for longer hours compared to the rest. However, **the purpose they were serving were of their own, and not God's purpose.** When you serve your own purpose, you do not fully understand what it means to serve because forever you will always expect something back in return. However, the world is sometimes or often times not like that, it requires us to give and we may never receive anything back. In some cases, we become calculative of what we can or cannot do and what do we get in return. This 'transactional' nature of serving a purpose does not fall in line with Christ's true meaning of serving.

Hence, what about 'Serving as a purpose' and how does it differ? When it comes to this word 'purpose', people tend to seek till the ends of the Earth to find it, we often hear people meditating about the meaning of life. Again, humans are selfish beings that crave for something 'dramatic' in their lives. We want to know our purpose in a dramatic way or sense because we believe it to be something very special. However, does it ever occur to any of you that your purpose does not need to be that... exaggerated? It can be the simplest things like caring for your loved ones.

A simple purpose. Has anyone heard of St. Therese of Lisieux known as the 'little flower'? She was a really spoiled child, selfish and was super sensitive about everything that had to do with herself. She would cry over the smallest biting comments her parents would make about her, hence she was simply difficult as a child. However, at 14 years old on Christmas day something miraculously small happened. In France, young children left their shoes by the hearth at Christmas, and then parents would fill them with gifts. By 14, most children would outgrow this custom. But her sister Celine didn't want Therese to grow up. So they continued to leave presents in "baby" Therese's shoes. As she and Celine climbed the stairs to take off their hats, their father's voice rose up from the parlor below. Standing over the shoes, he sighed, "Thank goodness that's the last time we shall have this kind of thing!" Therese froze, and her sister looked at her helplessly. Celine knew that in a few minutes Therese would be in tears over what her father had said. But the tantrum never came! Something (small) incredible happened within Therese's heart that day. She swallowed her tears, walked slowly down the stairs, and exclaimed over the gifts in the shoes, as if she had never heard a word her father said.

The following year she turned 15 and wanted to be a part of the Carmelite convent with her other 2 sisters who already joined. Therese be known as the Little Flower but she had a will of steel. When the superior of the Carmelite convent refused to take Therese because she was so young, the formerly shy little girl went to the bishop. When the bishop also said no, she decided to go over his head, as well. Her father and sister took her on a pilgrimage to Rome to try to get her mind off this crazy idea. Therese loved it.



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 (+61 813-8108-9798)

Friska Ruslim (+62 812-6743-218)

CFJ Mass Servers

Lectors & Altar servers

Contact Person :

Felicia Husada (+61 821-6101-9933)

CFJ Newsletter Team

Contact Person :

Anastasia Liando (+61 821-8800-0821)

CFJ Teens

Contact Person :

Katya Kamdani (+61 815-8348-233)

CFJ Ushers & Audio Visual

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It was the one time when being little worked to her advantage! Because she was young and small she could run everywhere, touch relics and tombs without being yelled at. Finally they went for an audience with the Pope. They had been forbidden to speak to him but that didn't stop Therese. As soon as she got near him, she begged that he let her enter the Carmelite convent. She had to be carried out by two of the guards! But the Vicar General who had seen her courage was impressed and soon Therese was admitted into the Carmelite convent.

Later on, Therese's father suffered a series of strokes that left him affected not only physically but mentally. When he began hallucinating and grabbed for a gun as if going into battle, he was taken to an asylum for the insane. This began a horrible time of suffering for her, in which she also experienced 'dryness' in prayer. But with her strong will, Therese picked herself up. She knew as a Carmelite nun, she would never be able to perform great deeds but she proclaimed:

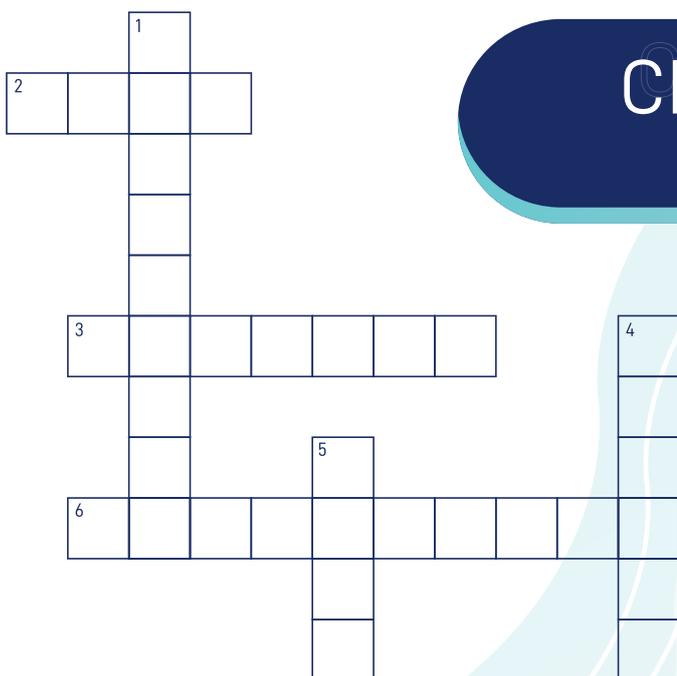
*" Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. **The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love.**"*

She took every chance to sacrifice, no matter how small it would seem. She smiled at the sisters she didn't like. She ate everything she was given without complaining -- so that she was often given the worst leftovers. One time she was accused of breaking a vase when she was not at fault. Instead of arguing she sank to her knees and begged forgiveness. These little sacrifices cost her more than bigger ones, for these went unrecognized by others. No one told her how wonderful she was for these little secret humiliations and good deeds. When her eldest sister, Pauline, was elected prioress, she asked Therese for the ultimate sacrifice. Because of politics in the convent, many of the sisters feared that Therese's family would take over the convent. Therefore, Pauline asked Therese to remain a novice, in order to allay the fears of the others that the three sisters would push everyone else around. This meant she would never be a fully professed nun, that she would always have to ask permission for everything she did.

But that did not stop or discourage Therese. Therese knew that by her small little sacrifices she would please God and earn her spot in Heaven to be with Him. *"I have always wanted to become a saint. Unfortunately when I have compared myself with the saints, I have always found that there is the same difference between the saints and me as there is between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and a humble grain of sand trodden underfoot by passers-by. Instead of being discouraged, I told myself: God would not make me wish for something impossible and so, in spite of my littleness, I can aim at being a saint. It is impossible for me to grow bigger, so I put up with myself as I am, with all my countless faults. **But I will look for some means of going to heaven by a little way which is very short and very straight, a little way that is quite new.**"*

St. Therese showed us that in little ways she could live out her life's purpose. After all in Luke 16:10 it is stated that whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much. '*Servus servorum Dei Servant*': the servant of the Servants of God. This is actually the papacy title that has been proclaimed in the bible *"whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:26-28. We are called to be servants of Christ and *"Whoever serves and gives, seems like a failure in the eyes of the world. In reality, it is exactly in giving their life that they find it"* (Pope Francis). Always remember who gave his life so that we can find ours and who is the true servant of all... Christ.

Cynthia H. Wijaya
Head of CCD



CROSSWORD puzzle

Across

- 2. This saint is the patroness of soldiers and of France
- 3. Name of the current catholic Pope
- 6. This saint is the patroness of illness, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, sheperds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes

Down

- 1. This saint was born during the plague outbreakin Siena and is the patroness against fire and illness
- 4. This saint is the foster father of Jesus
- 5. This saint is the mother of Jesus and is a blessed virgin

Dear Daddy D,

We're required to serve others, but where do we draw the line? Is there a line?

- Maria Martha

ASK DADDY D

ASK DADDY D

ASK DADDY D

Dear MM,

The line in service according to what Jesus said; nothing is more beautiful than someone who would lay his life for his friends (John 15:13). Thus, there is no line – Jesus expects us to give our all in all. Sometimes we may doubt, because those we serve might not be “worthy” – i.e. people who may want to take advantage of our kindness.

But know that they have received their just rewards, while we await our reward in heaven (Matthew 6:1-8). Having said that, as children of God, we should have to be able to discern when we are asked to serve for a right or wrong reason (vis a vis Luke 16:1-13).

Be careful of false prophets who may lead us astray by misconstruing what God means for us – by their fruits you shall know them, for a good tree will only bear good fruits (Matthew 7:15-20)

Got any questions ?

Email Daddy at info@cfjakarta.com



Catholic Fellowship Jakarta

Photos

of the month





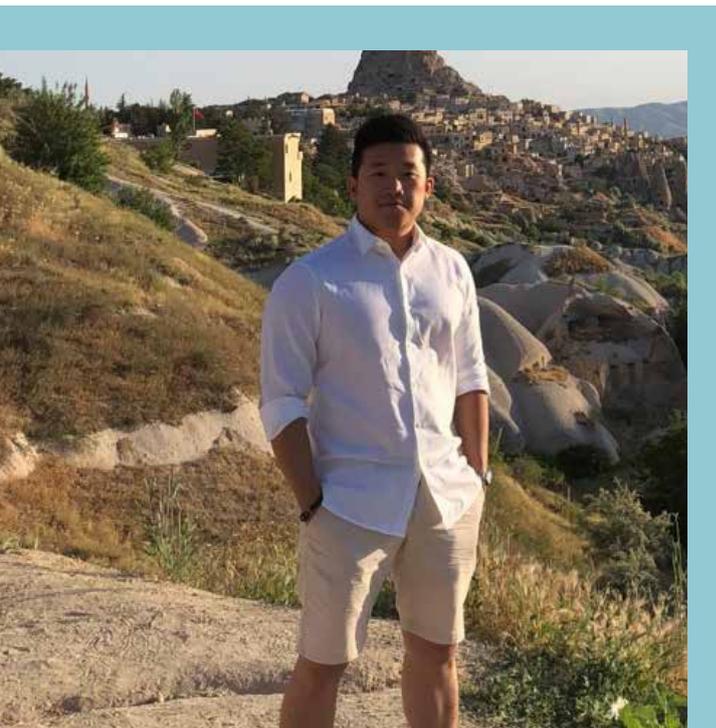
Catholic Fellowship Jakarta *Sharing*

It's been almost 4 years since I first joined CFJ. I wasn't very active in the ministry back then. I was just a regular attendee of the Sunday mass. One time, Mardhika, the Leader of Ushers, asked me to serve in the Usher Ministry and fortunately I said yes. At that time, I didn't have much expectations, I thought that I just wanted to contribute something that I can do. After some time and all of a sudden, I feel immense joy in serving in the community and ultimately in serving Christ and others. Eventually, serving as an usher in CFJ mass became a weekly routine for me. Finally, I became a part of the CFJ Family. By serving in the CFJ Usher ministry, I hope I can serve genuinely and solely for God's Glory. This is so that at the end of the day, the congregation who comes to Mass can feel blessed and be inspired to become blessings for others. I am grateful to be involved in a very positive community where I can learn so much from many friends in the community. There is always room for my spiritual life to improve on, thus I attend CFJ's bible fellowship sessions where as brothers and sisters in Christ we share and strengthen each others' faith continuously. From this, I learn to rely on God more and more in my daily life.

There are also many social activities and events in the CFJ community that helps to bond its members. Therefore, I would say it has been a wonderful experience in being a part of the CFJ family. It has helped to shape me to become the person that I am today, and I am looking forward to keep learning God's will through serving.

- Ivan Sugiarto

*How serving
has changed me*



It has been a roller coaster year for me, from someone who has not been baptized into someone who is craving to serve God. I just got baptized last year November thanks to CFJ RCIA baptism class by Tante Erna. Since then I have been actively involved in helping Mass Liturgy for new baptism and First Holy Communion. Besides that, I am also actively involved in helping Youth Catechist in sharing the knowledge to the First Holy Communion receivers.

I always share to other people about why I love to help in serving new Baptism and new FHC candidates; it's about the atmosphere and the new people. It really makes me feel blissful when I see the faces of new people and their families joining the Catholic community, somehow it brings joy and a lot of happiness that I could not find anywhere. Also, this is because I experienced it myself when I got my Baptism in November last year.

I really thank CFJ community for giving me an opportunity to get closer to God, and to also provide the chance for me to serve God. I really hope many more people will get the chance to experience this as well.

- Sammy Sudjono