



28th October 2005

National University of Singapore

Catholic Students' Society

"Christ in our community, Love in every heart"

Patron Saint: St Thomas Aquinas

Chaplains: Fr Frederick Quek, Fr Valerian Cheong

www.nuscass.org

Feast of Sts Simon and Jude

Today's Word: Eph 2:19-22; Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5; Luke 6:12-19

announcements

Catholic Awareness Week 2006

We're looking for a committee to help organise **Catholic Awareness Week 2006**. CAW is the major CSS outreach event to the rest of campus. If you'd like to help or want to know more, please contact **Jason Tay** at jasonatyk@singnet.com.sg.

Candle goes online

Our CSS publication, Candle has gone online! Besides spiritual articles, Candle also features forums, a tagboard, and we will soon have a blog ring. This month, we focus on Mary, with articles on the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary and the Novena. Do drop by at <http://nuscass.org/candle/> to read more. There's also an online forum at forums.nuscass.org, for discussion on our faith and CG topics.

Sponsors needed for Christmas Celebration 2005

For this year's Christmas Celebration, we are appealing for sponsors who are willing to contribute to the Celebration because instead of gift exchange, we want to invite about 30 kids from an orphanage to join us for the dinner. So we will need quite some money in order to pay for their dinner. Prize sponsors are also welcome for lucky draw. Interested sponsors please contact **Gabriel** (96640055, u0506720@nus.edu.sg) or **Marcus** (98318670, u0507639@nus.edu.sg). If you know anyone who might be interested to sponsor us, please inform them too.

Mass is on **Fri, 6.15pm at LT17** and **Wed, 1pm** (usually at YIH; Mass for last Wed of a month is at NUS Staff Club).

Visit our website: www.nuscass.org, and discussion forums: forums.nuscass.org.

Read **The Candle**, our online publication at www.nuscass.org/candle.

E-mail us at nuscass@catholic.org.sg.

Subscribe to our mailing list at groups.yahoo.com/group/nuscass/.

events

Mass with intentions for the exams

date/time: Friday, 4 Nov 05, 6.15pm.
venue: LT17

Our final Mass for this semester will be on 4 Nov. There will be a Praise and Worship session before Mass begins. Do invite your friends along!

Triversity Thanksgiving Mass

date/time: Friday, 9 Dec 2005, 6.30pm.
venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

NUS, NTU and SMU will be coming together for a thanksgiving mass during the December holidays. It is a time for us to gather together and give thanks for God's blessings throughout the year.

“Jesus Lives In Us!” - CSS Retreat 2005

date/time: 14 - 16 Dec 05
venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Youth Centre (CAYC).
contact: Your FCG head or Alexis at lindee_07@hotmail.com.

Our annual CSS retreat will be held on 14 - 16 Dec. This year's theme is "**Jesus Lives in Us**", and the focus is on prayer, personal reflection, and building a closer relationship with God. Please register early with your FCG heads or contact Alexis at lindee_07@hotmail.com for information or registration. We're also looking for **facilitators** to help out in the retreat. If you'd like to help out as a facil, please let your FCG heads know, or contact Alexis at lindee_07@hotmail.com.

“Christ Actually” - CSS Christmas Celebration 2005

date/time: Tue, 20 Dec 05
venue: To be confirmed
contact: Your FCG head or Melissa at 94378757.

This year's Christmas Celebration will be held on 20th Dec. The theme is "**Christ Actually**". Details will be confirmed soon. Interested parties please inform your respective FCG heads. There are 10 seats per table. Also, we are appealing for sponsors who are willing to contribute to the Celebration because this year, instead of gift exchange, we want to invite about 30 kids from an orphanage to join us for the dinner. So we will need quite some money in order to pay for their dinner. Prize sponsors are also welcome for lucky draw. Interested sponsors please contact Gabriel (96640055, u0506720@nus.edu.sg) or Marcus (98318670, u0507639@nus.edu.sg). Join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship with exciting programmes!

quotes on prayer



“This is the way I used to pray... I would try to picture Christ within me, and it did me greater good - in my opinion - to picture him in those scenes where I saw him more alone. It seemed to me that being alone and afflicted, as a person in need, he had to accept me. I had many simple thoughts of this kind. I found the scene of his prayer in the Garden [of Gethsemane] especially comforting; I strove to be his companion there. I used to think of that sweat and how afflicted he was, and I wished I could wipe that grievous sweat from his face. But I recall that I never actually dared do it, since my sins appeared to me so serious. I used to stay with him as long as my thoughts allowed me to, for there were many distractions that tormented me.”

“Do you think it unimportant ... to understand that there is no need to go to heaven in order to speak to one's Eternal Father? ... Nor is there any need to shout. However softly we speak, he is near enough to hear us. Neither is there any need for wings to go to find him... Look at him within yourselves and do not turn away from so kind a guest... Speak with him as with a father or a brother or a lord, or as with a spouse; sometimes in one way, sometimes in another.”

“A much greater love for and confidence in this Lord began to develop in me when I saw him as one with whom I could converse so continually. I saw that, even though he was God, he was a man who wasn't surprised by the weaknesses of men, that he understood our miserable make-up, subject to many falls ... I can speak with him as a friend, even though he is Lord. I know that he isn't like those we have as lords here on earth, all of whose lordship consists of artificial displays: they have to have designated times for speaking and designated persons who may speak with them... O King of Glory and Lord of all kings! How true that your kingdom is not armed with trifles, since it has no end!”

“If you can talk to other people, why should you be at a loss for words when speaking to God? Don't believe it; at least I won't believe of you if you practise. Otherwise, the failure to communicate with a person causes both estrangement and a failure to know how to speak to him. For it seems then that we don't know him, even if he is a relative; family ties and friendship are lost through lack of communication”

“Because of his humility, this King listens to me and lets me approach Him; and His guards do not throw me out, even though as an uneducated person I don't know how to speak to Him. The angels who assist Him know well the attitude of their King, for He delights more in the unpolished manners of a humble shepherd, whom He realises would say more if he knew more, than He does in the talk of very wise and learned men, however elegant their discourse, if they don't walk in humility.”

Sts. Simon and Jude

Jude is so named by Luke and Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except, of course, where all the apostles are referred to. Scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Actually, Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot. Evidently because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to "Jude" in English.

Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called "the Zealot." The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. For them, the messianic promise of the Old Testament meant that the Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone was their king, and any payment of taxes to the Romans—the very domination of the Romans—was a blasphemy against God. No doubt some of the Zealots were the spiritual heirs of the Maccabees, carrying on their ideals of religion and independence. But many were the counterparts of modern terrorists. They raided and killed, attacking both foreigners and "collaborating" Jews. They were chiefly responsible for the rebellion against Rome which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

As in the case of all the apostles except for Peter, James and John, we are faced with men who are really unknown, and we are struck by the fact that their holiness is simply taken to be a gift of Christ. He chose some unlikely people: a former Zealot, a former (crooked) tax collector, an impetuous fisherman, two "sons of thunder" and a man named Judas Iscariot.

It is a reminder that we cannot receive too often. Holiness does not depend on human merit, culture, personality, effort or achievement. It is entirely God's creation and gift. God needs no Zealots to bring about the kingdom by force. Jude, like all the saints, is the saint of the impossible: only God can create his divine life in human beings. And God wills to do so, for all of us.

"Just as Christ was sent by the Father, so also he sent the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit. This he did so that, by preaching the gospel to every creature (cf. Mark 16:15), they might proclaim that the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, had freed us from the power of Satan (cf. Acts 26:18) and from death, and brought us into the kingdom of his Father" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy).