



7th Sunday of Easter B 24th May 2009

A wave of resignations from ministries has been hitting St. Thomas' parish over the last few weeks. While such happenings call for reflection on the underlying causes, they also call for order and understanding.

A good number of parishioners are involved in some ways in the life of the parish. They belong to the PPC, the PFC, the YPC, the FRC, to the liturgical ministries, to the faith sharers, and then there are those always ready to assist when the Church needs their help and the "unconditional's" who will always be there - strong and sound - whatever... Most of them understand why they are involved. They want to serve God by giving some concrete expression to their baptism; they want to glorify God by using the talents they received from Him for the benefit of the Kingdom; they also realise that they are the members of the Body - which is the Church - and as such they have to function. The degree of their commitment may differ according to their availability or to their spiritual development. And while they do but their duty, it is indeed very important that, as a community, we affirm them and show them our appreciation.

Yet, this is not always the case. It is difficult enough to work together! It is yet even more challenging when, from the back seats, brothers and sisters are criticising and gossiping. However, many back-seater's are not committed to any ministry in the Church and cause the ones who are dedicated to be overburdened with responsibilities that could be better shared!

Today, we live in a world where communication is instantaneous (email, sms, cellphone...). Yet, the quality of human communication does not seem to have improved at all. On the contrary. There is little real love and compassion, very little tolerance for each other,

Weekend masses: **SATURDAY 5 pm** and **SUNDAY 10.30 am**
Confessions: **SATURDAY 4.30 pm** or by appointment
Weekday masses: **TUESDAY 9 am** and **WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm**
First Friday of the month: **ADORATION 6.15 pm** and **MASS 7.30 pm**

217 Hummingbird Avenue - P.O. Box 367 - LENASIA 1820
Tel: 011 854 6411 Fax: 011 852 4678 - Email: st.thomas.lenz@gmail.com
Bank details: **STANDARD BANK**, Acc. Nr. **170 2130**
of **LENASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Website: <http://www.stthomaslenz.org>

For **Mass intentions** and **appointment** with Father, please contact Shantha by phone at the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9.30 to 12.30
OR leave a message on the mailbox OR send an email.
For **Sick calls**, please contact
Clive Padayachee on **011.854.5060** or **072.493.4773**
For **Funerals**, please contact **Vivian Patel** on **011.854.8523** or **Cynthia Thomas** on **011.854.5490**
In case of emergency only, **Fr. Philippe's** cell is **082.729.3758**

Join in the following activities...

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP : every Monday 7.30 pm in the Hall.
Contact Edgar 011 852 4960
INTERCESSION PRAYER GROUP: every Friday 10 am - 24 Opaal Street - Extension 5. Contact Vivian 011 854 8523
PRAYER GROUP: every Saturday 3.30 pm in the Hall.
YOUTH CJA GROUP: every Friday 7.30 pm in the Hall - contact Lerece 083 411 5650

and quite often too little loyalty towards the employers or the employees! To resign from work is almost as casual as to change one's shirt.

I'm afraid that attitude, rooted in today's world, has found naturally its way into the Church. People join ministries and resign from ministries almost as though they were casual labourers. Maybe we forget that the employer is not of this world, we forget that He is the one who not only gives us the opportunity of labouring in his Kingdom, but also provides us with all the talents we need to do it. Maybe we forget that He is full of love and compassion and that He died for us, so that we may experience Life, Happiness and Love. Can we really be "casual" for such a good boss?

That is probably the reason why, in the great wisdom of the Church, the tradition has it that a Christian must write to the Parish Priest a letter of "motivation" to join or resign from ministry.

I strongly suggest that we all reflect on this so that we may come to the decision of improving communication between the members of the Body, indeed treating that communication as holy. May God bless you all. Father.

UPDATE ON SVDP

We now have a group of 5 candidates to start again the SVDP conference here at St Thomas. God is good! Those interested to join, please contact Gregory **082.902.6721**

The formation for READERS will be rescheduled to some time after Pentecost

Second Collection towards "Pentecost transport" for Lenasia ext 10, Vlakfontein and Zakariyya Park

AS A GESTURE OF RECONCILIATION

In the celebration of Pentecost, at the time of the procession of the gifts, you will be invited to bring some gifts to the altar, which will be distributed to the poorest of our greater parish (rice, mealie meal, soap, tooth paste, jam, sugar, etc)... whatever you can afford.

Altar Servers Roster

Wed 27th: Adrian, Sonam, Kewan
Sat 30th: Tiffany, Steven, Sonam, Lincoln, Nicholas, Mitchell
Sun 31st: Justin, Jacklyn, Bradley, Janine, Bongani, Jason PLUS 4 from St. Kizito

Flower List

Veaulette & Debbie Sequira,
Kennith & Verina Simons, Geni Singh, T Velse & Mary Alice

Mass Intentions

Sat 23rd: Bradley Naidoo, Queenie Moses, Ruth Moses and Gabriel Moses RIP and Thanksgiving Mass
Sun 24th: Siga Moses RIP
Tue 26th: Percy Padayachee RIP
Wed 27th: Special Intention

PENTECOST

We are celebrating next weekend the Solemnity of Pentecost, the closing of our Easter celebrations. As you know, we want to make of it a big family reconciliation event and we hope that you have all booked the date firmly since a long time. However, if for a valid reason, you cannot make it on Sunday, there will be a mass on Saturday evening 5pm.

The celebration will start at the Civic Centre at 9am. At the beginning of mass, parishioners will be invited to receive the Pardon of God in the sacrament of reconciliation. During this time, Praise and Worship will carry on with a variety of hymns and Gospels from the music ministries of all four churches.

At the end of the Praise and Worship, mass will continue with the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist.

After mass, we will all share whatever food will have been prepared by the four communities. During this time, we will be entertained with songs by the choirs and sket's by the youth/catechism groups.