



# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday B

21<sup>st</sup> June 2009

Follows from last week, an article by Ron Owens on Worship...

### When Man Sees the Pulpit as "His" Stage.

We live in a society that craves entertainment. Sadly, this desire to be entertained has gained more than a foothold in the church. By design, many of our church buildings have become theatres. What was once called the "pulpit area" has now become known as the "stage" for "religious performing." This is true both in preaching and in music.

*There is no place in a worship service for entertainment.* The people are not in need of seeing how clever man is, but how holy God is. They need an encounter with Him. Yet so often a congregation leaves more impressed with the singer than with the Savior; more impressed with the personality of the preacher than with the power of the Holy Spirit. In entertainment the focus is on man, while in worship the focus is always on God. Today it seems that, especially in the world of "Christian music," God is often being used to display man's talent, rather than man's talent being used to display God. We must strive with all our being to keep the congregation's focus where it needs to be. God, after all, is our "audience" in worship. It is His approval that we are to seek. We must continually remind ourselves of this:

*It matters not if the world has heard, or approves, or understands;*

*The only applause we're meant to seek is the applause of nail-scarred hands.*

### Insensitivity to What the Holy Spirit is Doing in a Service.

It is extremely important that those of us involved in worship leadership remain open and sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit when we are leading the church in worship. The pushing of our own agenda can quickly hinder what God is doing at a particular moment in a service. Let's look at some specific examples involving different areas of leadership.

Imagine a point in a service when something has taken place that has unquestionably led the congregation to a serious evaluation of their lives in light of God's holiness. The people's hearts have been deeply moved. The choir

is scheduled to sing next, but they have planned to sing a rhythmic, upbeat version of "Blessed Assurance." There is nothing wrong with the song, but the timing is not right. Music Director, what do you do? Do you just go ahead and do what you have planned, or do you adjust and have the congregation sing a hymn or chorus that is in the flow of what is happening? How often I have seen the Spirit of God quenched by the wrong music. A soloist or choir may be scheduled to sing, but if what is planned would turn the people's focus away from what God is doing, it would be better not to do anything. There are times when the best thing that could happen is silence.

Organists, pianists, and musicians must also be sensitive to what is going on in a service. If, for instance, the service has closed with a deep sense of conviction, they must be careful what they play for a postlude. The focus can so quickly be turned away from God and what He has been doing, and turned toward themselves and their music by playing some boisterous number. Sometimes it may be best to just continue quietly playing the commitment hymn.

Many times I've seen the Holy Spirit grieved by a pastor who, after God has spoken deeply through special music or in the corporate worship of the congregation, gets up and tells a funny story in order to "get his audience." What has really happened is that the pastor has drawn the focus away from God and toward himself. Worship has been hindered.

We must remember that those who are part of the worship leadership will either help or hinder what God wants to accomplish in the service. We must be careful not to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit by being "out of the Spirit."

*To follow next week...*

## YOUNG YOUTH YES WEEKEND

There will be a Young Youth YES weekend on the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of July. This programme is tailored for the youths between 12 and 17 years and will help them understand better who they are and who they are interacting with and, ultimately, will unfold a little more their relationship to God.

Those who have already been on a Mini, welcome to the weekend and those who have already done a Young Youth YES weekend, welcome back for a deeper experience.

**Registration forms available from Jude James.**

### Altar Servers Roster

Wed 24<sup>th</sup>: Adrian, Sonam, Kewan

Sat 27<sup>th</sup>: Tiffany, Steven, Sonam,  
Lincoln, Nicholas, Mitchell

Sun 28<sup>th</sup>: Justin, Jacklyn, Bradley,  
Janine, Bongani, Jason

### Flower List

Vicky Basson, V. Badal, Conrad & Charmaine  
Bob, Micheal & Theresa Bob

### Mass Intentions

Sat 20<sup>th</sup>: MI Nicholas Morgan, Jeriamiah and  
Leslie RIP & Thanksgiving Mass &  
Noel Jackson 40Days Mass

Sun 21<sup>st</sup>: MI Rosie Poonen RIP & Gwen Sequira  
RIP

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup>: Thanksgiving

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>: MI Lawrence & Donovan Joseph  
RIP

### JUSTICE AND PEACE

Next Saturday 27th June, workshop  
from 10h00 to 13h00.

Venue: One of the classrooms in the  
Hall or, if the numbers are too  
important, the Church.

All welcome to attend.

### DEDICATION ENVELOPES

Please collect your envelopes.

### MARRIAGE COURSE TEAM

Meeting next Wednesday after mass in  
Father's flat. Please do attend this  
very important meeting.

Marriage course will start soon.

All candidates for Confirmation - i.e.  
JCJ3 - must meet with Father, together  
with their sponsor, for a ½ hour in-  
terview, preferably on a Friday even-  
ing. Please book an appointment with  
Father 082.729.3758

### To celebrate the Youth Month...

The YPC is inviting all the youths  
from CCD 7 on to a Youth Day at St  
Thomas' Hall next Saturday from  
9h30 till after evening mass.

Next week Sunday, vocation work-  
shop at the Cathedral, 9am

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](mailto: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