



26 May – 1 June, 2019

Courage, part 1

‘Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality’ C S Lewis

‘When one is convinced that his cause is just, he will fear nothing’ Saint John Bosco

Introduction

- † The gift of counsel helps us to know the will of God in our life and to choose accordingly**
- † Making choice is not enough, we need to act upon it and this is why we need courage to take action along ways that are in conformity with God’s will**
- † This kind of courage is mostly needed in the most difficult situations, as when Joseph needed to make a decision about Mary and her being pregnant**

The difference between ‘Holy’ and ‘worldly’ courage

- † Worldly courage or the bad courage is often meant to**
 - impress others**
 - boast about one’s self**
 - influence or control others**
 - remove or replace someone in a certain position**
- † Whereas the courage that comes from the Holy Spirit has the purpose of defeating evil or standing against it or both**
 - It takes action out of willingness to advance the Kingdom of God here on earth**
 - The gift of fortitude makes the courageous humble because the person in question does not take credit for himself/herself but ascribes courage to a gift from above, to God**

A person is courageous for as long as this person abides in God and becomes weak as soon as there is a separation from God. 'For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you' Isa 41:13

- † God strengthens us so that we truly witness how good defeats evil just like Christ on the Cross Who defeated death through sacrifice and love
- † Saint Paul, who went through many hardships, wrote in *Phi 4:13*, 'I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me'

How do things work?

- † Once we have the gift of courage, the Holy Spirit follows up and guides our actions to do God's will. *'Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say' (Luk 12:11-12)*
- † Our will becomes guided by Him and not overtaken in any way
- † We take action after receiving counsel from the Lord to overcome the obstacles
- † David had the courage to do God's will against all odds *(1 Sam 17)*
- † The bleeding women knew that her strength is Christ, even if the tradition says not to touch Him *(Luk 8: 43-48)*

How do we prepare ourselves for the gift of courage?

Very simply, we need to have faith, hope and love

- † Faith: we need to surrender ourselves to the will of the Lord and to use our courage to help in accomplishing God's plan of salvation for us individually and for all humanity
- † Hope: is the desire or the longing for the Kingdom of Heaven and the search for eternal Life as our happiness, placing our trust in the promises of Christ and relying not on our strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. *'But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint' Isaiah 40:31*
- † Love: if we are not bound with the Lord in love, then we easily lose our strength *'Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us' Rom 8:37*

 refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you' Isaiah 41:13

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

- 1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon**
- 2. for CrossTalk to find a locale**
- 3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim**
- 4. to become more of saints and less of sinners**
- 5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think**
- 6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth**
- 7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him**
- 8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor**
- 9. to all the sick**
- 10. to all those in prison**
- 11. to the unity of the Christians**
- 12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity**
- 13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management**
- 14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them**
- 15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights**
- 16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region**

During this coming week, we will lift the Maronite Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
اب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والارض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور،
إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد ببيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الله الأب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
ونؤمن بالروح القدس،
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والابن،
الذي هو مع الأب والابن
يُسجد له ويُمجد،
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة في الدهر الآتي
أمين