



2 - 8 June, 2019

Courage, part 2

'I do not fear at all what men can do to me for speaking the truth. I only fear what God would do if I were to lie'

Saint John Bosco

**'Hope has two beautiful daughters:
their names are anger and courage.
Anger that things are the way they are.**

Courage to make them the way they ought to be'

Saint Augustine

Courage is the power of the Cross (1 Cor 1:25, 27)

- † The courage of the faithful is crowned or goes hand in hand with 'remaining in Him', in the Vine, in being humble and exhibiting kindness, patience and self-control, no matter what the circumstance is**
- † Moses and the Pharaoh, David and Goliath, Peter and John, Paul, Joshua and Caleb, Elijah**

The Martyrs (Act 7:54-60)

- † The early martyrs and the martyrs of today who take courage in not denying Christ and preferring death of the body than spiritual death**
- † When martyrs refuse to deny their faith in Christ, they express their firm faith in God the Father and in the teachings of His only Son Jesus**
- † They witness to their hope that their death will bear good fruit for the Church and will strengthen it in the face of persecution**
- † It will lead them to Eternal Life, spread the Kingdom of God on earth and reveal love that springs from the love of Christ**
- † They prayed for their persecutors and hope that their martyrdom was a light to the lost**
- † The books about the lives of saints tell about the bewilderment of the pagans in the face of the courage of the early Christians and the peace and tranquility that prevailed in them while facing death**

Witnessing to Christ in all that we do and not only through martyrdom (Num 13-14:25; Mat 15:21-28)

- † The martyr, above all, is a witness
- † Martyrdom can be last in witnessing. It does not have to be the case every time
- † Jesus told us that His followers were going to be persecuted for His Name and that He will send us His Holy Spirit to comfort us and to help us
- † The purpose of witnessing to Christ is to show the world the Love of God to all people through our unconditional love to all of them
- † Being a witness is not about displaying heroism, it is about being a saint, holy and acceptable to God (*Rom 12:1*)
- † Other examples: business men who refuse fraud that could lead to more profit and choose to remain honest
- † Despite the difficult situations, this kind of courage gives peace to our hearts, strengthens our weaknesses and boosts our determination to stand up to fear, criticism, and all types of evil

Courage in repentance

- † Sin distances us from God and makes us weak in the face of temptations
- † The Holy Spirit comes to our rescue and gives us the courage to return to God and seek His forgiveness and even to ask for the forgiveness of those we have done wrong to
- † Our sins, not only offend and hurt God, they hurt the Body of Christ, that is the Church. *'And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it'* 1 Cor 12:26
- † When we repent, we show in this practice how much we trust God's love and the love of the Church for us
- † Our hearts need to be converted. It means reconsidering things and events in light of the new commandment of Christ, that is to love the way He loves us
- † We need to renew the Spirit of love in our daily life, actions, words, and through this, to apply the Spirit of the Gospel

God commands us to be courageous

- † *'As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not be afraid; only believe' Mar 5:36*
- † *'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'* Jos 1:9

refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Arise, for this matter is your responsibility. We also are with you. Be of good courage, and do it' Ezra 10:4

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 Protestant Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السماوات
ليتقدس إسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
خُذنا كفافنا أعطنا اليوم
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا
كما تغفر نحن أيضاً
للمذنبين إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في تجربة
لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد
إلى الأبد
أمين

قانون الايمان
نحن نؤمن بالله واحد
أب قادر على كل شيء
خالق السماء والأرض وكل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد،
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور،
إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب
هو الذي به كان كل شيء،
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر
ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس من مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقبر وقام أيضاً في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وهو جالس عن يمين الأب
وسياتي أيضاً بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي ليس لملكه نهاية
ونؤمن بالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والابن
المسجود له والممجّد مع الأب والابن
الذي تكلم بالأنبياء
ونعتقد بكنيسة واحدة، مقدسة، جامعة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الموتى وحياء الدهر الآتي
أمين