



## Newsletter – June 2023

CFSM Singapore

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### Challenges to our Faith in the Family- Attending the Sunday mass

#### SEE

After the Covid-19 pandemic, some of us are still not going to church for Sunday mass. We are feeling comfortable at home. The online masses are still continuing. Now Covid-19 is endemic. Some of us are still afraid that it might pass to us by others in the church. Some of us are still anxious about the crowds in the church.

Our children are also not going to the church for Sunday masses. Some may not have returned to their parish activities on Sunday. The online masses are a convenient excuse. Parents have to cajole or persuade them. However, parents must also be good role models. Parents have to lay the foundation for their children.

When children are asked why they are not going for masses, they say they do not understand the sermons or they can't hear clearly what the priest is saying. Sometimes there is a ring of truth to it some priests have a heavy foreign accent or some churches do not have a good sound system. Different churches may have different practices and these confuse the child. It will take some time (as they grow up) to accept the imperfect church but the perfect God.

How about special needs children? Indeed this is perhaps a great challenge for the family. Can we have a mass only for them? Why can't they be in the usual Sunday mass? What must we do to make them comfortable? What are the transport arrangements? Many questions like these abound when we have these children.

The elderly, our loving parents, grandparents, and other close relatives is another group that we must consider urgently. They raised us up with love, hard work and dedication. We owe them a lot. They also have their own needs and challenges:

Health issues, need for transport, whether the helper is free or can she manage on her own, can they seat for a long time, etc.

Caregivers must give lots of patience, tolerance, love and care. Churches usually anticipate the presence of this group and cater for them as much as they can.

### **Consequences**

1. What happens when our children neglect the Sunday mass?
2. If as a parent, we are not good examples, what will happen?
3. Can the elderly not attend the Sunday mass? Is it right?

### **JUDGE**

#### Personal Reflection

1. How do I feel when a member of my family does not fulfill his Sunday obligation?
2. Must I do something about it? Why?

#### Christian Reflection

1. What does the Gospels, the encyclicals and the teachings of the Church say about this reality.
2. What will our Lord Jesus tell you in the above situations that you may face?

### **ACT**

1. Go with the children and elders as a family to church. Be good examples. Perhaps, follow up with a family lunch or dinner.
2. Pray for members of our family who need our prayers in every aspect of their lives.
3. One participant suggested take photographs together after mass as they remind us of our togetherness.
4. Surrender to Lord Jesus where you need to and trust in the Lord Jesus.

Note: Participation in the Sunday Eucharist or the Vigil Mass on Saturday is once again required to fulfill the Sunday Obligation, which includes keeping the day holy. This was officially be reinstated on Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## **Announcement**

CFSM Singapore Nature Walk

Date: Saturday 24 June 2023

Time: 8.30 am to 12.00pm

Location: Rifle Range Visitors Centre – Quarry Wetlands- Temasek Club

Meet at 8.30am at Beauty World MRT Station.

All members and their families are welcome and encouraged to join in the walk.