



# SANCTUARY

www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

OCTOBER 2007

*Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.*



## Feast Day: October 18

Luke, the writer of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, has been identified with St. Paul's "Luke, the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). We know few other facts about Luke's life from Scripture and from early Church historians.

## Gospel Reflection (LUKE 17: 11-19)

### "The Power of GRATITUDE"

By Deacon Ramon Villardo

Greetings and may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a powerful lesson to be learned in the passage in gospel of Luke (17:11-19). I encourage all of you to read it and reflect on the message contained in this reading. The message is about - GRATITUDE! And if we pay attention, it is a lesson that will stay with us for the rest of our lives!

Let us first of all look at the following passage in Luke:

*As He (Jesus) entered a village, ten lepers approached Him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

Leprosy in times of Jesus was a much more general term than our term today. Leprosy could refer to a number of infectious skin diseases. But, let's just say that the ten lepers referred to in the reading had leprosy that we know today.

In Jesus' time, lepers were kept in isolation and everywhere they went people stayed away from them. Just imagine, once diagnosed with this disease they could not hug their wife or children. They could not even shake hands with someone. They could not even go to the temple to worship. That is why there were 10 lepers (all they had was each other) and in the reading, we were told that that these lepers "stood at a distance."

But, after being healed, only one of them came back and say "thank-you" to Jesus. And so perhaps we shake our heads at how the other nine could be so ungrateful...but let's stop for a moment and ask ourselves these questions. . . Have we ever done the same thing? That is, have we been ungrateful to God?

Let me put it in this way:

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MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY

(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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*Newsletter published every month as means of information for the Community. This newsletter is a supplement to the official publication of Magnificat, the Angelus.*

**PERSEVERANCE IN PRAYER.**

The first question is: "Am I still erring in the wilderness and saying: I have sought my Redeemer and have not found Him"? In other words, have I basically converted and become a disciple of Christ? It means that I have found Him, My Lord and Saviour: Jesus, the Way to the Father, the Sharer of His Holy Spirit. Deeply rejecting all sin and rebellion, I am not an arid wilderness anymore, but I have become a watered garden where God can rest and I can be at peace with Him, all because of His Grace, to which I have said : "YES". I Quote from the True Life In God message:

Jesus says: *Find Me, My Beloved, in purity of heart, by loving Me without self interest; find Me in holiness, in the Abandonment I desire of you; find Me by observing My Commandments; find Me by replacing evil with love; find Me in simplicity of heart.*  
*Let your tepidness enflame into an ardent flame, relinquish your apathy and replace it by fervour.*  
*Do all these things, so that you may be able to say: I have sought My Redeemer and I have found Him.*  
*He was near all the time, but in my darkness I failed to see Him.*  
*O Glory be to God! Blessed Lord! How could I have been so blind?*  
*I shall then remind you to keep and treasure My Principles, so that you may live.*



My God, I have come from far, but I have still a long way to go: self-interest lurks around every corner, my heart is divided in looking first for earthly goods and pleasures and the esteem of people. I hesitate in the total abandonment of my will. I am full of not caring, luke warmness, slowness to reach out to my neighbour in need . The list could go on. The answer is: *PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!*

St. Augustine says that we do not need to find many things to pray for. In the words of the psalm: " I have asked for one thing this is what I will seek: to dwell in the House of the Lord, all the days of My life, to see the graciousness of the Lord, and to visit His Temple". Prayer does not require many words as to make sure the Lord learns from me what I need. He knows that already. God wants us through prayer to exercise our desire for that one necessary thing so that we may be able to receive what He is planning to give us. His gift is very great, but our capacity is small and limited. Through prayer, our faith deepens, our hope and trust grow stronger and then through the enlarged desire of our heart we start to enter into that great gift of God that "*no eye has seen , no ear has heard*". It is the intimate friendship with Christ (to the Father in the Holy Spirit) on earth growing into the union of heaven. To have tasted it, is to know that this is true happiness, casting out fear and replacing it with love.

Prayer is then that lived intimate relationship and the growing desire of that one thing necessary and has become unceasing beyond the special prayer times permeating all our motives, thoughts, actions and aspirations with that desire to please the Beloved. Our life can become a Palace where Christ is King if we leave all our passions (lust, greed, etc) behind. It can become a Paradise where our bridal soul meets its Bridegroom if we can leave behind all earthly values.

Last Sunday (October 21st) in the gospel of Luke 18,1-8, Jesus tells us, His disciples, a parable about the need to pray always and not to loose heart. The parable is comical almost with an unscrupulous, selfish judge and a poor powerless widow. The judge finally gives justice to the widow not because he cares, but to get rid of her bothering him continually. She persevered, she did not loose heart, she reached her goal.

We could cite many people who accomplished astonishing things and fame because they persevered. Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti (who died just recently) studied and auditioned for seven years before he made his first professional appearance. It took another seven years before he performed in the Metropolitan Opera. This is an example of someone with a personal ability and perseverance which enabled him to succeed in spite of many obstacles. Luciano's perseverance made him reach his goal, this is admirable and even inspirational, but the perseverance that Jesus is encouraging in prayer is of a total different kind. Pavarotti succeeded by relying on his own strength and ability. Perseverance in prayer can not come from feeling secure in ourselves but from totally depending on God's power and strength. It is much more than saying: I will never quit. It is trust in God, dependence on divine strength, pursuing not our own will but the discerned will of God. God is in total contrast with the self centered judge from the parable. He is just, faithful and loving infinitely. He answers always our heartfelt prayers (ask! seek! knock!) especially when our prayers and desires are in harmony with the one thing necessary and in abandonment to His divine purposes. The result of this, the disciple's prayer, is grace powered endurance and it is profoundly precious, eternally precious and can hardly be compared to the finite, is only possible in completely giving over our cares to God in Whom we trust no matter how He chooses to answer our prayer.

Our example is Jesus Himself. In trust and obedience He turned fully His life over to God. Even in the midst of tremendous physical, emotional and spiritual suffering, He embraced God's will. As a result, He was raised up and exalted to the highest place in heaven. We can know the live with God that Jesus knew because He shares that Spirit with us. Always then ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit (Luke 11,13) to know God's will and the strength to follow in the footprints of Jesus, trusting that the Father has the best in mind for us , even in the most difficult circumstances.

*God's Love always prevails. So we PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.*

Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz.  
*Magnificat Spiritual Director*



My dear Magnificat Family,

Catching my breath after a long uphill walk, I sat in front of the gate of the Church of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. The Gospel of St. Luke describes this place as a hilly country of Judea. It has kept its pristine idyllic charm. From where I sat the whole vicinity of Jerusalem spread before me. The outline of the city edged on the horizon is a glorious spectacle. But what enthralled me most is the beautiful mosaic on the faced of the Church Mary escorted by angels greeting Elizabeth. Two women of great faith. On the adobe steps leading to the church is still written with colourful granite blocks: *Magnificat*. In 1992, on my first visit to the Holy Land, this very sight became the confirmation of what came about beyond my wildest dreams, the founding of the Magnificat Family.

Memories rushed by me that touched my heart with sadness. Mommy Donna excitedly running around this very place could not contain her joy at seeing the Shrine of Magnificat which would be our inspiration. The images of those who no longer call Magnificat their home gave stabs of pain to my heart.

I tried not to miss passing by this place every time I lead a group in pilgrimage to the sacred places. And now it is the 15<sup>th</sup> year since that fateful day I first set foot in this hallowed sanctuary. I find comfort anew in visiting the original Magnificat.

It is of faith that the Magnificat Family was born. It is by faith is flourished. And by this faith it will take its place in history. If only in the history of the lives of those of us who dare to bring it to its joyful conclusion.

*I left a letter at the altar of the church. A prayer for all of you, my Magnificat Family. I asked our patroness to inspire you to keep your heart beating with her heart. Like her, this our family rejoices in God our Saviour. He has looked with favor upon our lowliness. Upon us is His mercy. Ours shall be His strength. He shall fill us with good things. We will bear His promises. We shall glorify His name forever.*

As I wound my way down the cobbled steps to dip my hands in the cold water of Mary's well at the foot of the hill, pigeons darted by. Their cooing song filled the air. It was the answer to my prayer.

*For my Magnificat Family, I know there will be joy and peace.*

Love and blessing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father".

Fr. Teo Rustia  
Spiritual Advisor & Founder of  
the Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community



Dear Magnificat Brothers & Sisters,

It was last October 29, 2006 when the Magnificat Council of Elders held a retreat for the selection of their next Presiding Elders. We remember how God touched us in a very special way and called us to be the next presiding elders of the Magnificat Community. Last year's COE retreat was an amazing experience because we felt the goodness and love of our Lord. There was a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We truly felt the presence of God. Praising was non-stop.

God called us to serve Him through this community and we answered, "*Yes Lord we are your servants accepting your call*". We are like Mary, who said "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.*" (Luke 1:38)

For us to perform the responsibilities of being servants are not easy. There are always challenges and trials as we lead the community. But as we go along, we always pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us. We have been reading some Christian books that help us in our spiritual journey. One of the books that we have read gave us the wisdom to carry the work that God has given to us. Now, we want to share with you this wisdom. We hope and pray that you will put this in your heart and follow what God wants us to do.

### QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER/SERVANT

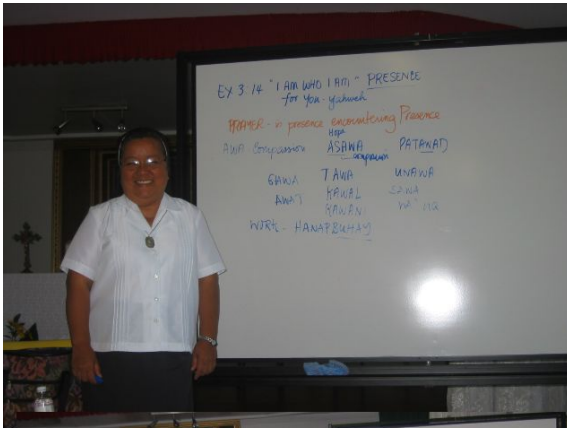
1. Good leaders show faithfulness and reverence. *I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani ... for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most. (Nehemiah 7:2)*
2. Good leaders have a servant's heart. *Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant. (Matthew 20:26)*
3. A good leader has a heart for prayer. *Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah ... cried out in prayer to God in heaven. (Chronicles 32:20)*
4. Good leaders accept responsibility for their actions. And David said unto God, "*I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.*" (1 Chronicles 21:8)
5. Good leaders keep their eyes on Jesus. *For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have - Jesus Christ ... (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)*
4. Good leaders show courage based on the assurance of God's presence. *He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done ... (Daniel 6:10)* The words and actions of a good leader are consistent. Daniel was vocal about his faith in God, even in a pagan land, and his actions backed that up.
5. Good leaders do not emphasize themselves. *He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. (John 3:30)*
6. Good leaders recognize false teaching and boldly combat it. *If someone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't encourage him in any way. (2 John 1:10)*
7. Good leaders are consumed with doing what is right. *Listen, you leaders of Israel! You are supposed to know right from wrong ... (Micah 3:1-11)*
8. Good leaders demonstrate maturity, both in their actions and in their knowledge of God's Word. *Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding (Hebrew 6:1)*
9. Good leaders are not threatened by skilled subordinates. They gather skillful people around them. *The following men joined David ... They were among the warriors who fought beside David in battle. All of them were expert archers ... (1 Chronicles 12:1-2)*
12. Good leaders have others who hold them accountable. *Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others. (Proverbs 12:15)*

May God fill our hearts with love and may He continue to guide and grant us the wisdom to serve Him.

With prayers for blessing,

*Joe & Annie Lapid*  
Joe & Annie Lapid  
Presiding Elders

WEEKEND RETREAT WITH SIS. HAYDEE



Sr. Anna Haydee Librojo and her teachings to the community during our weekend retreat.



*A retreat with Sr. Anna Haydee Librojo, FDCC (Canossian Daughters of Charity) on Oct 6 & 7, the Feast of the Holy Rosary.*

Sr. Haydee, a spirit filled speaker kept us awake until around 11:30 p.m. on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Matt said the Mass for us on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We concluded the retreat with a Rosary outdoor in the premises of Regina Mundi and we acclaimed the Queenship of Mary in this place.

It was a very fruitful and enlightening retreat.

A SUCCESSFUL FALL DINNER & DANCE FUNDRAISING - OCTOBER 13, 2007



The pictures says it all – a successful, joyful, evening of fellowship by all.

To all who have helped generously in making this event a success, we thank you!

But most of all, we give honour, praise and thanksgiving to our loving God.

Because of your continued support, our fundraising efforts have netted \$4,000 (after expenses) which will be used in the maintenance of our buildings in our Retreat Centre, Regina Mundi – home of Magnificat.

We hope to make this as an annual event and again, we are counting on all of you for your generous support.

With grateful hearts, we give thanks!

### Gospel Reflection (LUKE 17: 11-19)

- (1) What about the time when you were sick and got better and you gave all the credit to your doctor, your rehab program, the health care system, or your determination . . . but not to God?
- (2) Or, you get through a hard time in your life or in the community and believe that things have finally "run their course."
- (3) What about you get a promotion at work and are sure it is because of your dedication and talents.
- (4) Or, you believe that your children are good because you are a "good parent"
- (5) Or, perhaps you were unemployed and finally found a job and believe it is due to your hard work and perseverance alone.

How many of God's blessings do we fail to thank Him for? How many times have we received from God but not believed? How many times have we thanked our "lucky stars," even our "horoscopes," rather than God? And how many times have we concluded that we have "earned" the good things we have?

You see, when you think about it, we are really not much different from the lepers. We receive blessings on every side and often take them, enjoy them, but forget to give thanks to God. The source of everything we have in this life.

Let me share with you a true story; it was the time I lost my job - a job which I held for years. I remember saying to my wife, Mely, not to worry because with my experience, knowledge, skills, and education I would get back on my feet anytime soon! But then, you know, days turned into weeks and weeks into months without interviews and therefore without a job! As a sole breadwinner in the family, frustrations and yes, even fear, slowly but surely, crept in as I struggled to make ends meet.

One day my wife talked to me after another disappointing day. She asked me if I've been praying. It suddenly hit me that I wasn't praying at all; no! I wasn't involving God in my life! How could I thank God when I have mountain of bills to pay and mouths to feed? In fact, I put God aside by solely relying on my own effort; on my own abilities. But when I came to my senses, I became aware that, yes, I failed to accept Jesus' authority over me; that He is merciful and that He can bring about changes in my life—only that I let Him; only if I get down on my knees, humble myself to Him, and accept that He, Jesus, is Bigger than all of my problems!

Mely reminded me not to forget to pray and not to worry because if you pray, don't worry but if you worry, it is because you don't pray! She also said not to forget to thank God for all the blessing He has given me and my family *and believe without shadow of a doubt that a job is on the way*. She looked me straight in the eye and said, "Ramon, remember, just remember God loves you and He will take care of you!" That time on, my wife and I prayed together in the morning before I set out and then we prayed again in the evening before going to bed praising and thanking God for His blessings in our lives and we did that everyday and sure enough after only a week of looking God blessed me with a job.

My brothers and sisters, that's the power of Prayer! That's the power of Faith! The power of Trust in God! The power of Hope in God and the powerful of Gratitude!! Your situation or problems may be the same or may be different than mine, but regardless what it is, as Christians, remember that for you and me, "Our only hope here below is help from God above."

In the Gospel of John, we find that the only prayer that Jesus ever says up until the night before He dies is when he stands in front of the tomb of Lazarus and says, "Thank you God for hearing me." Dear friends, throughout His life on earth, Jesus was always grateful to God. Why? Because the practice of gratitude is part of our faith. Gratitude is one of the key ingredients in the spiritual life. And according to Deborah Norville, in her new book, "Thank You Power", people who focus on the things they are grateful for are happier, healthier and more successful. The author suggests that a simple but consistent expression of gratitude can carry us a long way down the road to happiness. Even a medieval mystic by the name of Meister Eckhart says that if the only prayer we say in our lifetime is the word "Thank You," it would be enough.

So, whatever we're going through, my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us give thanks to God; whatever pain we have; whatever suffering or burden or hardships, let us give thanks to God; whatever we have to endure, we give thanks to God; and whatever the future brings, we give thanks to God. Last October 8, 2007, we celebrated "Thanksgiving Day," But as Christians, that is, for all of us here who are members of this Community, everyday should be "Thanksgiving Day!"

And so today, we humbly say "Thank you, God, thank you, Lord, Jesus for everything" and pray that we might always be grateful. God Bless and rest assured that you are all in my prayer!

**CCRC Christ the King Conference**

Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 am to 6:00 pm  
**Canada Christian College 50 Gervais Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton)**  
 Separate Youth Track-Skits, Youth Music, Youth Evangelization  
 Tickets: Adult - \$15 before Nov 9 (\$20 after Nov 9); Youth - \$5  
 Make cheques/bank drafts payable to: CCRC  
 Mail to: CCRC - 2671 Islington Ave. Toronto, M9V 2X6

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Music by Divine Worship Music Ministry  
 Speakers, Praise & Worship, Reconciliation, Chapel, Holy Rosary, Holy Mass,  
 Prayers for Healing, Anointed Talks, Live Music, Testimonials, Fellowship

**ACTIVITIES**

**Saturdays**

2:00 – Holy Rosary  
 3:00 – Devotion to the Devine Mercy  
 Prayer Meeting  
 4:00 – Anticipated Sunday Mass

**Devotion to the Sacred Heart**  
*Every First Friday of the Month*  
*(7:30 p.m. – Chapel)*

Oct. 27-28 - DAUGHTERS OF THE KING RETREAT  
 (Sat. & Sun.) Sis. Linda Belen (DK coordinator);  
 Sis. Thelma Nichols, Sis. Cora Dalmacio

Oct. 27 (Sat.) - 2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy  
 Devotion, General Assembly prayer meeting  
 4:00 P.M. – Anticipated HOLY MASS

Oct. 31 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST with HEALING  
 SERVICE, REGINA MUNDI

NOVEMBER, 2007

Nov. 2 (Fri.) - 7:30 P.M. – FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION & Holy  
 Eucharist

Nov. 3 (Sat.) - 2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Devotion,  
 prayer meeting (DK to lead)  
 4:00 P.M. – Anticipated HOLY MASS  
 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Community Vigil - Daughters of the King (to  
 lead the vigil)

Nov. 7 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST with HEALING  
 SERVICE, REGINA MUNDI

Nov. 9-11 - M.E. CLASS #32 RETREAT (Fr. Teo Rustia) -  
 (Fri.-Sun.) Sponsoring Class – M.E. #31

Nov. 10 (Sat.) - 11:00 a.m. COE Meeting  
 2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer  
 meeting (Apostles to lead)  
 4:00 P.M. – Anticipated HOLY MASS  
 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. - Community Vigil

**ACTIVITIES**

Nov. 14 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST with  
 HEALING SERVICE, REGINA MUNDI

Nov. 17 (Sat.) - 2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy  
 Devotion, prayer meeting (COE/COA to lead)  
 4:00 P.M. – Anticipated HOLY MASS  
 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. - Community Vigil

Nov. 21 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST with  
 HEALING SERVICE, REGINA MUNDI

To our Magnificat Community,

The fall dinner and dance party was over but the positive  
 feedback that we have been receiving is such a wonderful  
 thing to hear. The people who attended the party were so  
 pleased and were telling us how they enjoyed the party.

It makes us so proud to hear these positive comments. The  
 success of this event is again due to the collective effort of  
 the Magnificat community. We know that you did this  
 with cheerfulness, love and heartfelt prayers. You have all  
 contributed towards making this fall dinner and dance party  
 one of the accomplishments of our community.

To all those who helped in selling the tickets, to those who  
 donated door prizes, bottled water and soft drinks, to those  
 who helped setting up the party hall, to those who served  
 the food and to those who helped in every way they can,  
 our heartfelt thanks. All your help and sacrifices paid off -  
 and in the end, in the success of this fall dinner and dance  
 party, God is glorified. Praise Him!

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts.

God Bless,

Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie Lapid  
 Presiding Elders