



Newsletter – Dec. 2009

CFSM Singapore

2 Highland Road, #03-12

Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg/>

Email: cfsmsg@gmail.com

After the “Crisis”

In the gloom of the current “Financial Crisis”, we do, occasionally, glimpse what looks to be “a silver lining” - an objection to the old way of living, the one based on submission to the dictates of advertising, fashion, and, to waste.

Much as we wish to see an early end to this financial crisis, and that full employment be restored soon, we cannot deny that some of the unexpected side effects of the “new awareness” resulting from this crisis, is good for the long term development of society.

People are now buying less, and making what they have last longer. Long distance leisure air travel is reduced. Lavish dining has been replaced somewhat by home cooked meals. Car drivers keep their old cars longer, plan their trips, and drive less.

Those who have lost their jobs or suffered pay cuts learn the value of having savings. Some even saw this period of “enforced stay at home” as an opportunity to enjoy the company of their spouse, children, and family.

Those who have feasted at the table of risks learned that the zero sum game in which they were engaged, created no wealth, and, the playing field was not level, nor meant to be.

A simpler life-style went along with more sharing and sense of brotherhood. Family members huddled and stood by one another. Friendship too, underwent a shakeout. Some are prepared to stand by you and accept you in times in trouble and need. Others, such as those “wine and meat friend” burst and vanished like soap bubbles.

People now question the “old accepted” way of life, and see that they need to live in a new more sustainable way. The folly of crass, unbridled, consumerism is exposed. We begin to wonder where true happiness lies. Solidarity could replace individualism

If we are able to learn from this crisis, make it the beginning of a renewal, then it can be a blessing in disguise.

This Christmas, let us hope that you and I, will re-look at some of the values of our society, learn and emerge from this crisis as better persons, to contribute towards ordering this nation to become more like the Kingdom of God.

“The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the hearts of every man; it takes up the hope that inspires men’s activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps men from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.” (CCC 1818)

We know that in all things, God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose. - Rom 8:28

.... from Fr. A. Christophe

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The Members of the CFSM Ex- Committee, and the volunteers working in publication and circulation, wish

This Christmas

May God bless you and your family

with New Hopes for the New Year.



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