



# HOMILY



PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - ASIA \* PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

*Friday, 05 June (Day 5)*

Funeral Mass: Sister Marcelita CATARINA, D.C. (19962.1988), Died: 2 June 2026

On being kind and good

## BEING OFFERED AND BLESSED

**"THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, 'SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND.'"**

(Mark 12:35-37)

- In today's Gospel our Lord Jesus confirms a claim by the scribes that "the Messiah is the son of David" (Mark 12:35). Our Lord quotes King David who, according to Saint Mark, was "inspired by the Holy Spirit, said 'The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet'" (Mark 12:36).
- King David did not claim the throne of the kingdom of Israel for himself. God chose him and anointed him after God rejected Saul as king of Israel for his disobedience. The Messiah, meaning the "anointed one" or the "chosen one" is also chosen, anointed and sent by God like King David.





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- ⇒ Today, we offer this Holy Eucharist as our final farewell to Sister Marcelita CATARINA, Daughter of Charity, on this earth, we are most assured that God also says to her "Sit at my right hand" (Mark 12:36). God surely welcomes Sister Marce into his kingdom for in Baptism she was anointed by the oil of salvation and chosen her to be his servant among the poor.
- ⇒ As most of us listened to the testimonies last night in the conference of her virtues, Sr. Marce is like Saint Timothy to whom Saint Paul wrote, "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings" (2 Timothy 3:10-11). Persecutions may not be among those that Sister Marce experienced in her 64 years of life and 38 years as a Daughter of Charity but definitely she faithfully followed the teaching of our Lord Jesus, his way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance and sufferings.
- ⇒ [It is] Our privilege of enjoying... her goodness, "hindi lang siya mabait, kundi siya ay mabuting tao,"
  - ⇒ Sister Marce was indeed "competent, equipped for every good work"
  - ⇒ Her heart may have given up on Sister Marce but it was such a big and strong heart filled with kindness and goodness.

*Daghang salamat,  
Sister Marce!  
True to your name Marcelita,  
meaning a little warrior,  
you were a prayer warrior...,  
to your family and  
to many others;  
continue to pray for us also that  
we may have a heart like yours,  
kind to others and good as you.*

*A heart of a true and faithful  
Daughter of Charity  
that only the love of  
Christ crucified urges.*



**BEING OFFERED AND BLESSED**



# HOMILY



PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - ASIA \* PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

Thursday, 04 June (Day 4)

10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Reconfiguration- Province of St. Louise de Marillac- Asia  
403<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of St. Louise's Lumière

On listening to the Word of God

## BEING INSEPARABLY UNITED IN CHRIST

**"HEAR, O ISRAEL."**  
(Mark 12:28-34)

- The Shema Yisrael, "Hear, O Israel," is the central declaration of faith, emphasizing that authentic faith begins with attentive listening to God and His Word.
- Jesus summarizes the Law in the double commandment: to love God with one's whole being and to love one's neighbor as oneself. True faith is expressed through love.
- The scribe is praised by Jesus because he not only heard the commandment but also understood its meaning. Genuine listening leads to deeper understanding and closeness to the Kingdom of God.
- Hearing God's Word is not enough; disciples must act on it. Jesus teaches that those who listen and put His words into practice build their lives on a solid foundation.



**The Word of the Lord**  
**Thanks be to God!**





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- As the Province celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and prepares for future assemblies, Sisters are called to listen to one another, to the poor, and to the signs of the times, recognizing God's voice in these encounters and discerning His will for their mission.

## Key Message:

*“Hear, O Israel” is both an invitation and a challenge: to listen deeply to God, understand His Word, and live it through wholehearted love of God and neighbor.*

BEING  
*One*  
IN  
*Christ*

May they all be one,  
as You, Father, are in Me  
and I in You.  
John 17:21

*St. Vincent de Paul*  
Evangelizer  
of the Poor,  
Apostle of Charity,  
Witness of  
God's Love  
in Action

I am the  
bread of life,  
whoever comes  
to me will never  
hunger, and  
whoever believes in  
me will never  
thirst.  
John 6:35

"He is our peace,  
He who made  
both one and  
broke down the  
dividing wall of  
hostility."  
Ephesians 2:14

THE CHARITY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED  
URGES US

*Artisans*  
of peace and hope

India Thailand Vietnam  
Philippines  
Malaysia Indonesia

"Go forth, therefore,  
and make disciples  
of all nations."  
Matthew 28:19

ONE IN THE EUCHARIST ONE IN CHARITY MISSION ONE IN HOPE

ROOTED IN CHRIST  
NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST  
SENT IN CHARITY

United in Christ • Rooted in Vincentian Spirituality • Committed to the Poor • Journeying Together in Synodality

JUNE 4, 2016 – JUNE 4, 2026

**BEING INSEPARABLY UNITED IN CHRIST**



# HOMILY



PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - ASIA \* PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

*Wednesday, 03 June (Day 3)*

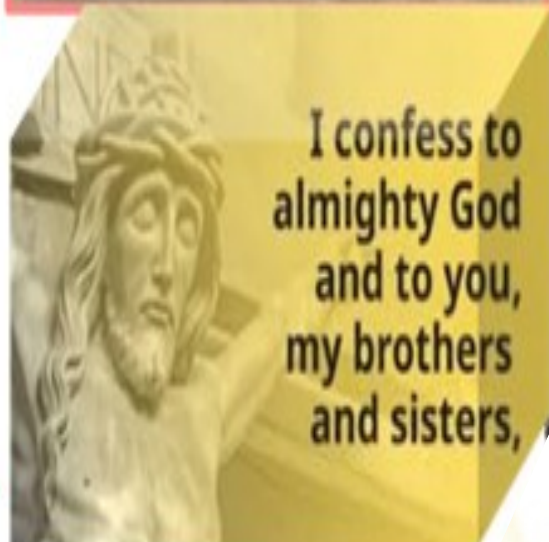
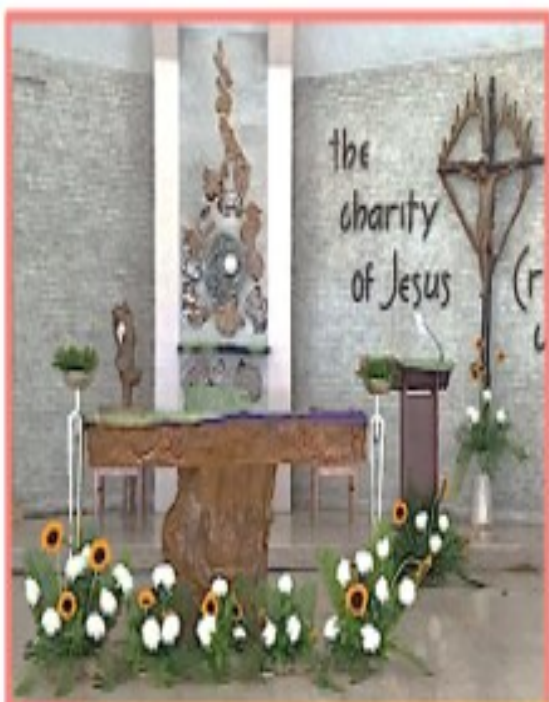
Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs – Memorial

On rising from the dead

## BEING RECONCILED WITH CHRIST

**“HE IS NOT THE GOD OF THE DEAD  
BUT OF THE LIVING.”**

(Mark 12:18-27)



- The Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. So, they questioned our Lord Jesus whose wife will be a woman who married all seven brothers...
- ⇒ Our Lord reminded them of two important truths: the teachings of the Scriptures and the power of God.
- The Scriptures teach us about heaven. Our Lord said, “When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven. As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God told him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, [the] God of Isaac, and [the] God of Jacob?’” (Mark 12:25-26).
- ⇒ Our Lord Jesus proved this truth about those who lived before and died are alive with God in his own Transfiguration.



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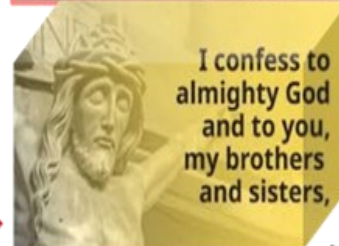
PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - ASIA \* PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

- Most important of all, though, is the truth of the power of God. Our Lord told the Sadducees, “[God] is not God of the dead but of the living” (Mark 12:27). During his public ministry, people witnessed our Lord restored the life...[He] would also command his friend Lazarus who had been in the tomb for four days, “Lazarus, come out!” (cf. John 11:1-44).
- As our Lord “saved us” (2 Timothy 1:9), Saint Paul also told Saint Timothy, he “called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9).

⇒ To rise again from the dead, indeed, we must strive to live a holy life.

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized sanctifying grace, the grace of justification: - enabling them to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues; - giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; - allowing them to grow in goodness through the moral virtues” (CCC 1266).
- Saint Charles Lwanga told his executioners, “You’re burning me, but it’s like water you’re pouring to wash me. Please repent and become a Christian like me.”

⇒ If we truly desire to be raised from the dead, we must therefore repent of our sins and live as true Christians. Saint Paul also instructed Saint Timothy, “bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God” (2 Timothy 1:8). Remember, our God “is not God of the dead but of the living” (Mark 12:27).



BEING RECONCILED WITH CHRIST



# HOMILY



PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - ASIA \* PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

## Tuesday, 02 June (Day 2)

Saints Marcellinus and Peter—Optional Memorial

On gratitude to God

## BEING ONE WITH CHRIST

### “REPAY TO CAESAR WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR AND TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD.”

*(Mark 12:13-17)*

- When asked “is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” (Mark 12:14), our Lord Jesus asked, “Whose image and inscription is this?” (Mark 12:16). After they replied “Caesar’s” (Mark 12:16), our Lord famously responded, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar” (Mark 12:17).
- Since the emperor minted the denarius, it rightfully belonged to him and should be returned to him. However, Jesus reminded his listeners that far more things fall outside of the emperor's ownership. He concluded his answer by adding, “and [repay] to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17).
- Psalm 90 declares, “Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God” (Psalm 90:2).
- Consequently, we must give everything back to Him, fulfilling the command to “repay to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17).
- ⇒ The opening Eucharistic greeting reminds us that God is present within the gathered community. By making the Sign of the Cross, we acknowledge this divine presence and declare that our celebration is offered in the name of the Blessed Trinity.
- ⇒ Ultimately, we are called to be one with Christ. Whether it is the invitation to the Holy Eucharist, the commitment to community life, or the harmony that flows from divine peace—everything is a gift from God. Everything begins with Him.
- Yet, human beings remain God’s most important creation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms that “Man and woman have been created, which is to say, willed by God ... man and woman possess an inalienable dignity which comes to them immediately from God their Creator. Man and woman are both with one and the same dignity ‘in the image of God’” (CCC 369).
- ⇒ Therefore, every single moment of our seventy or eighty years of life must be surrendered to “repay to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17).



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- Saints Marcellinus and Peter, fourth-century Christian martyrs of Rome, courageously faced death rooted in the conviction that they belonged to no earthly power. As devoted followers of our Lord Jesus, they knew they must ultimately “repay... to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17).
- We must turn to ourselves, too, and ask, “whose image... is this?” (Mark 12:16). Do we bear the mark of worldly powers like Caesar, or the likeness of God?
- As our Lord Jesus teaches, we must “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17).





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*Monday, 01 June (Day 1)*

Saint Justin, Martyr - Memorial

On death and judgment

## OVERVIEW OF THE RETREAT

**"HE LEASED IT TO TENANT FARMERS."**

(Mark 12:1-12)

- Using a parable, our Lord compares himself to the beloved son of a man who planted a vineyard and leased them to tenant farmers" (cf. Mark 12:1, 6). He is the one that the tenants "seized... and killed... and threw... out of the vineyard
  - Indeed, the rejection of our Lord Jesus became the very cornerstone of God's love for humanity and the foundation of our salvation.
  - While the Gospel primarily focuses on Jesus' sacrifice and salvation, the story itself is called the **Parable of the Tenants**. This means the text also **draws our attention directly to the tenant farmers who were trusted to care for the vineyard**.
  - The text notes that "at the proper time he sent a servant to the tenants to obtain from them some of the produce of the vineyard"
  - As Saint Paul wrote, "Each of us shall give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).
- ⇒ **We have received abundant blessings from God and countless opportunities from the Company. Truly, we are "called, gathered, and sanctified." The vital question remains: what have we done with these gifts and opportunities?**



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- ⇒ **This sacred retreat, uniquely significant as a preparation for the Provincial Assembly, is both a divine blessing and a gift from the Company. While its theme changes annually, the core invitation remains constant. For the Daughters of Charity, it offers a vital "opportunity: for deeper union with Christ in prayer, for more festive liturgical celebrations [and] for examining their life with a view to giving better service" (C. 21d).**
- ⇒ **Truly, God has called you as Daughters of Charity, gathered you within the Company, and sanctified you daily through the Holy Eucharist. May you enrich your calling with fidelity, your gathering with charity, and your sanctification with intensity.**
- In his Apologies, Saint Justin the Martyr writes, "But since we do not place our hopes on the present [order], we are not troubled by being put to death, since we will have to die somehow in any case."
- Truly, we need not fear the inevitability of death if we are confident that we have diligently tended the vineyard entrusted to our stewardship, **ensuring that our lives bear the distinct fruits of kindness and goodness.**

## Main Theme:

**Called, Gathered and Sanctified**  
**Artisans of Peace and Hope**

