

PRAYING WITH OUR SPC ROLE MODELS
Celebrating 325 Years of Life and Mission



JULY 2021

Theme: COURAGEOUS FAITH

Grace: My Lord Jesus, I beg for the grace of deep faith, courage, and confidence in your love in order to proclaim your Gospel to all peoples with zeal and perseverance.

Scriptural Text: “Though we had suffered and been shamefully mistreated...we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.” 1 Thes 2:2

Points for Reflection:

A. Courageous faith in the life of St. Paul

When Paul refers to his courageous faith, he is manifesting neither his own inner strength nor an ability to ignore the danger of death that he faces. Rather, he is boasting about Christ’s grace, which has given him the certitude of faith that enables him to conquer the natural fear of death. St. Paul, therefore, teaches us that there is a deep and abiding connection between being courageous and having certitude about one’s faith in the Gospel of Christ. This means that if we desire to be courageous like St. Paul, then we must also strive to deepen our faith in Christ’s Gospel.

B. Courageous faith in the life of our Sisters

SISTER MARIE ROSE NGUYỄN KIM NGUYỆT (1920 – 2012)

Province of Danang, Vietnam

Sister Marie Rose used her most precious weapons: an infallible faith, a flawless hope, an ardent prayer, and docility to the Holy Spirit, as she led the Province of Danang during the transition period from the historic darkness in their country caused by the war, towards a vibrant and new dawn. She accompanied the Sisters saying: “Let us love one another, let us be united to preserve our religious life whatever the trials maybe; we are journeying through the way of the cross of Christ and we must rely strongly on our Hope.”

SISTER PÉTRONILLE MARIE NGUYEN THI THAO (1908 – 1982)

Province of Mytho, Vietnam

Sister Petronille was fondly called by the sisters as “Second Mother Benjamin.” In obedience to God and to her Superiors, she courageously accepted to be the first Superior of the newly established Province of Mytho in 1964. Her courage, great confidence in God, and love for the Congregation were clearly demonstrated during the historic event of 1975 in Vietnam. They lost everything: Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary, Secondary School. Sister Petronille remained calm and encouraged her sisters, spending hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin to draw the necessary strength and light. With

the help of some families and the parish priests, she sent her sisters to the countryside where they established small communities of two or three Sisters.

C. Courageous Faith in our Life:

1. I take time to pray over the three models of courageous faith: St. Paul our Patron, Sister Marie Rose Nguyen Kim Nguyet, Sister Pétronille Marie Nguyen Thi Thao. What struck me in their life of witness? Why these in particular? I clarify this in prayer.

2. I bring into awareness whatever challenges I may be facing in my ministry or in my personal life at the moment. I remain attentive to the stirrings of the Spirit and ask Him to guide me to live out a courageous faith in my daily life.

3. Take all these points and dialogue with the Lord.

4. Share three ways to live out courageous faith in the community. As a community, review and revise (if necessary) your plan of activities to be more attentive and responsive to the signs of the times.