



Giáo Lý Ơi

Welcome to Issue #8 of GLO!
We enter the liturgical season of Lent!
<http://groups.vmpwa.org/GiaoLy>



Email Announcements shared through phuhuynh-all@groups.vmpwa.org

Attention Parents! If your email address is not on this email group, you are missing out! In January we shared our new calendar, program policies, and special safety announcements related to your children. If you are not receiving these announcements, please let us know (minhquan.trieu@vmpwa.org).

Updated Class Calendar!

Over the winter break, Giáo Lý + TNTT + VNDL met and revised our school calendar. Most all classes have remained the same, except for a few small changes. The new schedule confirms the Confirmation retreat in May, as well as the many Parish events for the coming year. **Specifically, the Parish Lenten retreat (March), Divine Mercy Weekend (April), and 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima (May) will extend TNTT and VNDL classes into June.** The parish office can provide families a paper copy, or you may download through our website (<http://groups.vmpwa.org/giaoly>).

March Classes Schedule Reminder! (full calendar on our website!)

Saturday, March 4th - No Classes because of the Parish Lenten Retreat.
Saturday, March 11th - Normal Classes
Saturday, March 18th - Normal Classes
Saturday, March 25th - TNTT Ngành Retreats

Thank you to Chị Hà and all the parent volunteers who come and provide us with delicious food! We cannot run without you! If you would like to help, please contact Chị Hà through email (hatran98012@yahoo.com).

Mass (6PM) & Adoration - Friday, March 10th (most likely)

Thank you to all who went to February's Adoration! With weekly themes and a time to write notes and prayers, this is a special time to be with Jesus. Confession will also be offered during this time. We invite everyone to come and be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament!

LA Religious Education Congress!

Many of our teachers attended this year and got to learn about the Catholic faith through wonderful talks and other activities!



Young Adult Retreat: March 3-5, 2017!

What is special about this is that this will include include Huynh Trường, Giáo Lý Viên, và Thầy Cô của VNDL! We all work so diligently and passionately in our respective programs, and this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the people who help run the other programs! We hope you will save some time to join us in fellowship and reflection. We are revisiting our roots with the theme: "**Về Nguồn**".



Giáo Lý Ở Continued



Gospel: The Temptation of Jesus (Mt 4:1-11)

A reflection from Đào Vĩnh Lộc, Phụ Trách Phát Triển (Catechist Development Coordinator)



Often, when I was younger and heard this reading, I would wonder about the temptations that Jesus faced. I would ask myself: what if the Devil came and challenged me with temptations similar to Jesus'? Would I be ready? Deep in these thoughts about facing the Devil, I would then mentally prepare myself for the challenge. Like an athlete before a big game, I would silently hype myself up. "Bring it on Devil! I won't be tempted! Bring in on!! Jesus is with me and together we'll defeat you!"

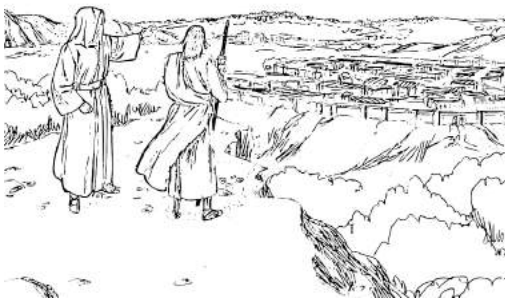
As fast as this motivation and hype came, it fled away just as quick. Because let's face it: I knew that I wouldn't have to face the same temptations Jesus faced. I don't have the power to turn stones into bread, nobody is promising me a whole city, and, even though God loves me, there are no scriptures written that indicate He'll send His angels to "carry me." After all, I am not Jesus, beloved Son of God. Why, then, would the Devil care to take me on? So as motivating as this scripture was, I always felt safe that I would never have to deal with the Devil face-to-face.

"The Devil is in the details"

As time flew by and I grew older and somewhat wiser, I came to the realization that the Devil appears to me all the time. All of you are probably guessing that I am alluding to how we are often tempted by friends, by strangers, or a million other ways in our daily lives. That the Devil comes from all sources and does not have to appear before us personally. If that is your guess on where I am going, you would be right. However, you would also be wrong. I am not saying that temptations do not come from these external sources, because they do. But these temptations are easily recognizable. It is easy for me to say no to a stranger or a friend tempting me with something like drugs or anything that will hurt my relationship with God. What I am talking about is way more difficult. It is when the Devil gets personal, *real* personal with me, that it becomes a different story.

"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

The Devil whispered this to me. But the stones that I am presented with aren't literal stones. Maybe it's something I have in my grasp, like money or time. How easy would it be for me to turn what I have been blessed with into things I want but not necessarily need? To selfishly waste it on myself. If I am not starving, the money I have could make someone else's life significantly better if given away. In my experience, the free time I've spent on others has resulted in great relationships and created both happiness for myself and those around me.



"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

While I have never been tempted to test God, I have from time to time been tempted to not trust in His plans for me. To follow my own will instead of God's will. To think that I can find my own happiness without following His path. The results have often been heartbreak and pain. God's will and His path for me might be difficult, but I understand His ultimate plan is for my own happiness. True happiness is with God.

"All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

Another false promise dressed in gold. It's obvious I have never been promised a city to rule. Personally though, how often am I tempted to make choices that put myself above other people? To make me think I am better than them? To have a mentality that separates me from my fellow brothers and sisters and prevent a connection or a relationship? It could be something easily masked, like a career choice that makes me feel important/rich but takes me away from family, friends, and the community--the people that need me. How many times have I made myself my own False Idol?

The temptations come when I least expect them to. In the times when it is the quietest. Temptations come not in the voice of the Devil but in my thoughts, my logic, & my selfish desires.

Jesus, My Lord & God. Give me the strength to conquer the temptations that draw me away from You. Grant me wisdom so that I may follow Your example, and to understand that a relationship with God is what I truly need. Let me choose You over myself, always.