

22.6.72

Hk, Hk, (HK  
DEC-10)

O God, author of life and love, you have given us the gift of life and call us all to share thro' Christ in your own divine life and love. We pray you, grant to all who have lost their lives in this past week's disasters the fullness of your own unending life, and thro' those who now mourn their loved families and friends the grace of your love to give them strength and the hope to share also one day with you the joy and peace of your never-ending life: we ask this thro' Christ our Lord. Amen.

There can surely be few people in HK this week who have not been moved by compassion or sorrow or even just fear, in the aftermath of last weekend's tragedies. Just one week ago HK people were also involved in the Vietnam air disaster — just another plane-crash in the world's headlines, but when you know personally or even indirectly someone who's on board, then you are more involved, more touched by what happens to other people — and if someone who's dear to you, whom you love has suffered, then there is too the pain and sorrow of loss and of human love. It has already been remarked how wonderfully so many have responded to the urgent needs of these past few days for help for those in distress, suffering or sorrow. And certainly the dedication and expert hard work of the rescue teams are an inspiration and something to be very grateful for, as well as to praise. But if there is deep down this other side of HK life, which can come to the surface in times of emergency, it's a pity it takes such a tragedy to bring it to light. In a few short weeks the important business of life, HK-style, will be to the fore again. And then you'll

see the blank, pre-occupied faces of people rushing about their business as usual. But don't let's say there's nothing we can do about it — there is a warmth and goodness in people which often just needs to be encouraged and given a chance to express itself.... we don't have to wait for another disaster to bring it out. Maybe the particular economic or political climate of HK, and the many social problems yet to be solved tend too much to making this an inhuman city: all the more reason for Christians to be a leaven in society, to try to practice the great commandment and commission God has given that we should love one another. For it's through love, both God's love for us and ours for each other and for God that the fullness of God's life enters the world. The only way that people who don't know God or deliberately ignore Him will normally begin to realize His truth is by seeing its truth at work in other people, & people who do believe and love and hope and whose lives give evidence of it. The point of Christ's living among us on earth is that God's life and love is not remote or entirely separate from humanity, from being human, from the cares and sorrows that affect all of us. The more human we can make our world, the nearer will be God's love and life to us, for being human involves both life and love. Nothing that happens to people in our world is outside our concern, really. But to human society and relations between people does need an effort, against selfishness, apathy, prejudice, injustice, the whole weight of urban, industrial organisation where people count less than profit, pleasure, production or whatever

aim or goal dehumanizes people by merely using them: like the sabbath, work and  
 society are for man, not man for them. | As we pray today, keeping in our  
 prayers those who have died in the recent disasters and those who suffer & mourn, let's  
 listen now to a part of Durufle's Requiem, *Sanctus*

### MUSIC PRAYERS.

There are

so many things man can do, so much control has been learnt over nature and the  
 secrets of the universe that we are shocked when things go wrong, when the  
 extent of our remaining ignorance gets shown up. It is a salutary lesson  
 to learn that human errors do cause tragedies in areas of knowledge and skill  
 we thought we knew all about. The plan of God is that we should master the  
 world, our environment, that it should serve the purposes of God. But in getting  
 away from being mastered by nature, by the created world, there's always the risk  
 which we need to face squarely that our growing mastery ~~can~~ become another  
 slavery, that we use creation selfishly for ourselves, and begin to take  
 pride in our own achievements, forgetting who is the ultimate Lord of creation  
 and why He's put us here, given us the power we have, and the purpose of His  
 giving. A Christian has to remember, and should give proof to others by his life  
 and attitudes, that God is the author and master of life and all creation,  
 and that our place is with Him, not independently, but in gratitude  
 acknowledging His wonders and the love & grace <sup>of life</sup> He gives & wants to give more