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# Special Highlights

~ APR 2007 ~

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## 使命宣言

我们，圣体堂区共融团体，愿成为基督圣体活的标记，尽力担当主基督祂舍己牺牲生命，为今日世界所付出的爱之标志与媒介。

## MISSION STATEMENT

As the parish-community of the Blessed Sacrament, we want to be a living expression of the Holy Eucharist, by trying to become both a sign and an instrument of Christ's life-giving and self-sacrificial love in the world of today.

Rev. Anthony Hutjes (priest-in-charge)  
Rev. Suvono Gerardus (assistant priest)  
Rev. Remi Liando (assistant priest)





## FROM DAVID'S DESK

I must admit that I understand little about the impending GST hike. If you google "singapore gst hike", you'll find many articles with contradicting viewpoints.

But what I do know is that the 2% GST increase on 1 July 2007 would certainly affect our shopping habits. For me, I would surely cut down on luxuries and try to look out for essential items that have discounts at the moment.

In fact, 2% is really not a lot if you do the math (20 cents more only for \$10!) but it certainly has vast effects on calculative Singaporeans like me... This revelation gave me one crazy idea: perhaps the church should consider imposing a form of tax too for sin - **GST (General Sin Tax)**.

Imagine that you have to pay \$50 to the church for venial (minor) sins like raising your voice at your spouse, coveting for that Alpha Romeo car, gossiping about your neighbour or watching Desperate Housewives with certain thoughts etc.

Now wouldn't that stop you in your tracks?

Of course, we shouldn't avoid sin just because of money - but for some hardened/indifferent sinners, this may be a viable solution before they fully comprehend how much Jesus went through to free them from sin...

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of Spotlight is to help parishioners and to support faith formation through inspired articles and drawings via the Spotlight newsletter and the BSC Website.*

May you have a contemplative Passion Week and a triumphant Easter Sunday!

*David Moon*



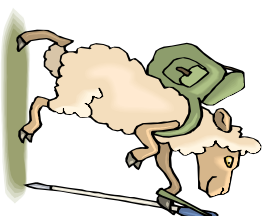
## INSPIRATION

### Called to Serve by Patricia Ang

Why do we invest our savings in insurance and investment related products? Is it to save for rainy days for our future? Is it to insure ourselves against high cost of living and medical costs? Yes we do all these things in one way or another to secure ourselves a better future, in education and in career. What about our gifts/talents? Have we seek God's guidance on how to best use them to serve Him for His glory?

At some point in time, someone in church may have approached you to help out in a certain organization or ministry. What do you say? There is the temptation to be indifferent, to become passive and lethargic or to fall asleep spiritually. It is very easy to get caught up in the things of the present moment or to be weighed down by troubles.

Most of us always think that the work belongs to the priests and the parish pastoral council of the church. The rest of us are just sheep following the shepherd, yet don't forget that we are also the body of Christ. The Lord knows our shortcomings and our struggles and He gives us the grace to bear our burdens and walk in His way of holiness.



*"God saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for His own purpose and by His own grace." (2 Timothy 1:9)*

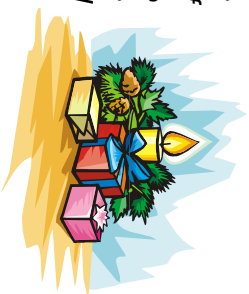
God sent his only son to die for our sins. He redeemed us so that we can serve Him. In God's kingdom, each of us has a place, a

role, a purpose and a function to fulfill. We serve God out of deep gratitude and thanksgiving, not out of fear or even duty.

God has a ministry for you in the church and a mission for you in the work. *“There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called (Ephesians 4:4).*

*“We are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the son of God, until we have the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.” (Ephesians 4:13)*

*“There are a variety of gifts, but always the same spirit. There are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord: working in all sorts of different ways through different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them.” (1 Corinthians 12: 4-6)*

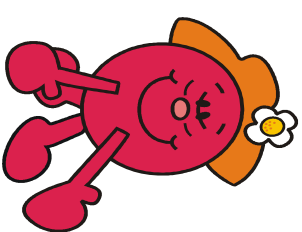


There are no insignificant ministries in the church, some are visible, some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable. Every ministry matters because we are all dependent on each other to function. Whenever you serve others in any way, you are tapping on your gifts/talents, and are actually serving God for His glory. As we mature in our spiritual life, the focus of our lives should increasingly shift to living a life of service.

At the end of your life on earth, you will stand before God and He is going to evaluate how well you served others with your life. Do you know that each of us will have to give a personal account to God (Romans 14:12)?

God will ask us how much time and energy we have spent on ourselves and how much we have invested in serving others. Can you imagine the answer which we will reply in the form of “I was too busy”, “I needed time to rest and relax” etc.

We are only fully alive whenever we help others. If you aren't serving, you are just existing, because life is about ministry. God wants you to learn to love and to serve others unselfishly. Be part of God's plan. Seek his guidance and serve Him and His Church. What is holding you back from accepting God's call to serve him?



Prayer :

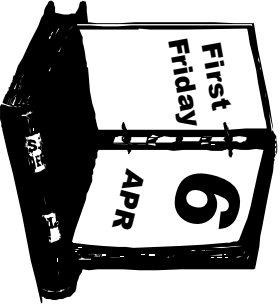
*“I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I do know that when we die and it comes to time for God to judge us, he will not ask how many good things we have done in our life? Rather he will ask how much LOVE we have put into what we did. Lord teach us to be humble and to grow in faith and to serve and love others.” **S***

*“The success of love is in the loving - it is not in the result of loving. Of course it is natural in love to want the best for the other person, but whether it turns out that way or not does not determine the value of what we have done.”*

**- Blessed Mother Teresa (1910-1997)**

### ***Vigil In Honour Of The Sacred Hearts***

Our monthly vigil in honour of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be held on the first Friday of the next month, on **6th Apr 2007**. It starts at 9pm on Friday and ends at 6am the next day. Mass will be held in church at **10:30pm** followed by the vigil. You are most welcome to attend part of it, even if you cannot join the whole vigil. Hope to see you there!





## HAPPENINGS

### Alpha Monthly Gathering (March)

by Richard Lowe

The Alpha Monthly Gatherings were supposed to have been suspended from March to May. However, once it was confirmed that the Cabin would be dismantled on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Alpha Team immediately grabbed the opportunity to go ahead with the monthly gathering for March. The topic we had planned for that evening was: Old Testament – Unit 2 Session 1 “Will the real Adam and Eve please stand up?”

At our Monthly Meeting held a few days before Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March, our gathering date, it was unanimously decided that we hold a special “Stations of the Cross” session instead, since we are in the season of Lent.

We did not use the popular Stations of the Cross booklet that we normally use on the Fridays of Lent. In its place, we decided to introduce a more meditative version of the Stations of the Cross. Since we were going to carry out this session in The Cabin, we presented it in Powerpoint.

The Stations of the Cross took about 45 minutes, and from feedback gathered immediately after the completion of the session, many of those present found this version more ‘touching’. They found it easier to relate the different stations to their daily lives. I think the guided questions presented at each and every ‘station’, enabled them to see the many situations in a different light. In this way, they had a more meaningful experience of Jesus’ Passion.

Pausing for a moment after each meditative question also helped penetrate our hearts. The colourful pictures depicting the different events at each station lent a somber mood in the Cabin and it certainly stirred our emotions.

After the Stations of the Cross, we had a short Coffee Break. Before calling it a night, we spent about 10 minutes going through, briefly, the symbols associated with each of the 12 apostles. Did you know

that Thomas’ symbol is a group of spear, stones and arrows? It was because Thomas was killed with a spear as a martyr for his Lord. Can you guess what is Judas’ symbol? Sorry, no prizes for the correct answer!:)

The response to this gathering was very encouraging. More than 50 people turned up. The Alpha Team sincerely hopes that when regular monthly gatherings resume in June in the new hall, we will have the same response to all our gatherings.

We praise and thank God for a lovely evening well spent in the company of friends of Alpha; in prayer and with lots of delicious food provided by the Good Lord Himself, through the many people who turned up for this special session. I am sure He was with us during the three hours we spent together in The Cabin.



**ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING** .....  
will be suspended until further notice....

Perhaps, until when the new Darnien Hall is ready for use. So, be patient and wait until further notice. GOD BLESS !



### ALPHA RETREAT AT ORCHID COUNTRY CLUB

2pm Sat 21st April to 4pm Sun 22nd April 2007 @ \$100 per person

Theme: FOLLOW CHRIST

Only few vacancies left. Please contact the following:

Karl Oliveira: 81739754  
Richard Lowe 93853381

to register or to find out about payment details.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED !



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting**

This coming April 2007, our Parish will be holding it's first PPC meeting with all its members.

The PPC committee will like to invite all members to attend this meeting. Kindly make yourselves available on this day:

Date / Day : 15 April 2007, Sunday

Time : 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Venue : St Matthew's Room & St Mark's Room, Damien Centre

PPC Members  
(refer to hardcopy)

### **Parish Mission 2007**

Blessed Sacrament Church will hold a parish-mission run (parish revival) by the Redemptorist Fathers from late September to early December this year. The proposed theme is "*One in the Love of Christ.*"

This ambitious plan was based on inputs at the November 2006 Parish Assembly, and subsequently deliberated by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and the PPC Executive Committee (Ex-Co).

The parish-mission will be preceded by a census of Catholics living within our parish boundaries from May to July.

Father Anthony will brief us on the parish-mission during Mass on the 5-6 May weekend.

### **Shadow play on The Passion of Christ - By The St Francis Music Ministry**

**Date:** 6th April 2007 (Good Friday)

**Time:** 7:30pm (to be seated by 7:15pm latest)

**Place:** Church

Please bring your friends and family to experience the Passion of our Lord. This is a play not to be missed!

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

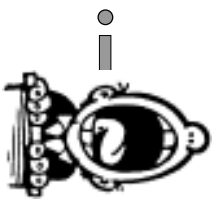
\*Please include your full name & contact details (will not be printed out in Spotlight). For BSC parishioners only

### **Room for sale**

A 3-room flat is for sale in Tanglin Halt Road (Blk 32). Contact Maggie at 64745249.

### **Room for rent**

One air-con room available for a lady only at Blk 42, Tanglin Halt Road. Contact Derek at 91458028.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Holy Week  
(refer to hardcopy)

Holy Week  
(refer to hardcopy)



## Non-Catholic Views of Catholicism

by Thomas Ng

It is common for Catholics to express love on Catholicism but how heartening it is to hear Protestant preachers, pastors or bishops comment on their own religion and praise Catholicism. The following comments are excerpts from the 3-volume book "Radio Replies" by the famous radio priests, Father Rumble and Father Carty.

The Rev O.J. Nelson of Bellingham, Washington says: "Strictly speaking, none but the Catholic has an infallible Bible and none but the Catholic can be rightly called an orthodox Christian .... There is only one Christian Church of real and consistent authority and that is the Catholic Church."

Charles Butler, in his "Horae Biblicae" says: "For the sacred writings which contain the Word of God, and for the traditions of the wise and good respecting it, we are almost wholly indebted, under Providence, to the zeal and exertion of the priests and monks of the Church of Rome."

Rev Dr A.S. Crapsey, addressing the "Free Religious Association": "Most of the Protestant denominations are drifting backward, gravitating toward the Catholic Church. They are losing their intellectual leadership by not keeping pace with the scholars."

Methodist bishop, Dr Sellow says: "The spirit of Protestantism is declining in America with the progress of Catholicism. It is dying, and will soon be a thing of the past."

Anglican bishop of London, England, Dr Ingraham says: "At the present moment, there is only one Church in England that

officially accepts the Scripture as the infallible Word of God, and that Church is the Church of Rome."

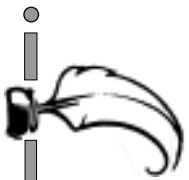
Apart from the above non-Catholic ministers, there are numerous Protestants who, after seeking the 'truth', have been praising the Catholic Church and even converted to be Catholics. I shall share two outstanding examples as an inspiration to strengthen our Faith.

Paul Whitcomb, a baptised Episcopal Protestant, became a Methodist minister and joined his wife to serve the Methodist church. Keen to research on biblical interpretations, Paul converted to Catholicism. He said, "...shortly afterward my entire family and several close friends followed me into the Catholic Church." Paul Whitcomb even praises the Catholic Church through booklets.

Perhaps the most impressive convert is Tim Staples. He was a Pentecostal Protestant, and from the age of ten, he wanted to be a preacher like Billy Graham. He worked for the Assemblies of God church as a youth pastor. Tim used to believe that Catholicism is 'Romanism'. He was surprised by truth when he befriended Matt Dula, a Catholic who really knew his Faith well. Tim was convinced by Matt on the misconceptions of fundamentalism, sola scriptura etc. of Protestantism. Finally, Tim watched a live TV Programme organised by the US fundamentalists. It was a debate between a Protestant evangelist, Dr Walter Martin and a Catholic priest, Father Mitchell Pacwa on various controversial issues. At the end of the debate, Father Pacwa completely defeated Dr Martin. So, Tim Staples resigned from his pastor job and became a Catholic.

He has also written the article "The Bible Made me do it" in the book "Surprised by Truth"\*. He concluded, "I love the real Catholic Church with all my heart and soul and strength."

\*N.B. A copy of the article was given to me by Irene Yong - I appreciate her sharing with all of us. **S**



**POETIC  
MOMENTS**

**The POWER of the  
RESURRECTED LORD**

GOD dwells amongst us, the living mortals,  
The power of the Resurrected Lord  
Dwells in our soul through faith;  
To give us LIFE abundantly.

The precious red blood of our SAVIOUR  
Covers HIS faithful followers,  
Redeeming, purifying, vitalising;  
Making all things NEW, transforming, giving

Hope to replace Despair  
Love to replace Anger  
Forgiveness to replace Guilt  
Joy to replace Sadness  
Health to replace Painful Sickness  
Peace to replace turmoil.

HE will dwell with us as our GOD,  
HE will wipe every tear from our eyes;  
Mourning, crying, pain will be no more  
JESUS will resurrect every soul with healing balm.  
JESUS is the great Healer for everyone  
Who calls HIM LORD and Saviour  
HE is GOD, ONE with HIS HEAVENLY FATHER  
And HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

It is the work of Almighty GOD  
To fight the evil of Satan,  
And bind Satan from harming HIS children;  
Look with faith, therefore, on HIS countenance  
Pray, Seek, Ask for HIS blessings,  
Let the POWER of the RESURRECTED LORD  
Dwell triumphantly in our soul.

~ Shirley Lau ~

Congratulations to Joshua Krishnan, and  
Cordelia Krishnan! You are our winner  
for last month's Spotlight contest! To  
win exciting prizes, unscramble the  
words below and complete the verse,  
and send in your entries by 8 April 07.  
*(For children 12 years & below; not for  
Spotlight members & family members)*

**Relax  
Lehi!**

(refer to hardcopy)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_