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Please include your name, contact number and address. The editorial team reserves the right to edit any letters or articles for publication.

Special Highlights

~ DEC 2006 ~

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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 Huijes (priest-in-charge)
Rev. Suyono Gerardus (assistant priest)
Rev. Albert Renckens (assisting priest)





FROM DAVID'S DESK

My heart skipped a beat when my car caressed the front parallel parking pole during my driving test; it shook but thank God, it didn't fall! It has never happened in all my 25 driving lessons in the past 4 months...



Driving a car is really very similar to growing in our faith. One moment of negligence or over-confidence would lead to disaster. Just as a driver must constantly consult his mirrors and check the blind spots, a Christian must constantly read and study the Bible, devote a special time for prayer, have fellowship, and keep a lookout for sins, especially the "blind-spot sins" like Pride and Envy.

Even experienced drivers need to be vigilant as the road has several potential hazards, including other drivers. King David was at the peak of his spiritual & secular "career" when he fell into adultery because of a beautiful woman who bathed openly...

We do not know when our "spiritual" tests would come, so it's doubly important that we brace ourselves for any form of "attacks" from the devil as well as temptations that come our way.

Oh, by the way, I passed my driving test:-)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

David Moon

INSPIRATION



The Land of Our Lord by Ronaldly
What brought you to Israel despite constant news that it is at war with its neighbour?

Under the auspices of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel and its Tourism Promotion Board, a group of us visited Israel. As they say, it was an offer I cannot refuse.

What was your reaction when you arrived?

It was an emotional arrival when we touched down at Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv. Firstly, it was as if I am a Diaspora Jew returning home for the first time and secondly as a Christian I had come to visit the country of my Lord in the town of Jerusalem where He did most of his ministry and where He was condemned, crucified, buried and resurrected. I so badly wanted to kneel down and kiss the ground at the airport in homage to the country where He walked on but was unable to do so due to certain circumstances.

What impressed you the most in Israel?

That everyone from MPs, Opposition Leaders, Hoteliers, Drivers and Tour Guide say the same thing - their justification why they had to go to war.

It is a country of intellectuals - so many middle age brilliant people, who are professors, researchers, IT entrepreneurs. Intel was invented by a Diaspora Jew who returned to Israel. Singapore had many joint ventures with Israel, the most prominent being SILRD (Singapore Israel Industrial & Development Foundation).

How safe is it in Israel?

We have not seen any policemen or the army with automatic machine patrolling the streets. We have not heard a single gunshot or the sound of a bomb. Escorted by a military Captain, we went as far as the Golan Heights and the border of the Gaza Strip, the neighbouring countries of Lebanon and Syria and I would venture to say it is safer to visit Israel than any of the Asian countries I have visited.

What is the considered holy for the Jews besides the Ten Commandments?

- 1) Sabot or Sabbath, which begins at Sunset on Friday till sunset on Saturday. Sunday is a working day. Nothing works on a Sabbath Day. The lifts in hotels and hospitals are automated by stopping at every floor without the necessity to press a button. (Pressing a lift button may cause a spark or fire which will be considered as work).
- 2) The Shema – “Hear O Israel, the Lord is One; The Lord is your God” (Deu 6: 4-9) the essence of monotheism. Every hotel door has this tiny strip pasted on the door for Jewish guests to touch and kiss before entering the room.
- 3) Jerusalem – The name denotes peace in Arabic or Shalom in Hebrew.

Everyone lives harmoniously in Jerusalem, the Jews, the Arabs, the Druze and the Bedouin. The irony is they somehow cannot live this way across the borders of their own countries. Jerusalem is the centre of Judaism – the temple of Solomon, Christianity where Jesus was died and resurrected and Islam, where prophet Mohamed ascended a horse into Heaven and where now the Dome of the Rock now stands in place of the Temple of Solomon..

How did you feel as a Christian visiting Israel?

Reliving the Bible: The Mount where Jesus preached the Beatitude, we sailed on the Sea of Galilee (or Lake Kinneret) in a replica of the boat where Jesus encountered Simon Peter and asked him to cast out his nets, the calming of the sea and the walking on water which awed Simon and made Simon “Fishers of Men” the house where Jesus had his Last Supper, the Golgotha where he was crucified and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the tomb where he was buried and rose again. We saw the St. Franciscan monks praying the way of the Cross and later waiting to go in are the Knights of Templar from England and finally the Dead Sea where you need not know how to swim as it floats you due to the saltiness of the water.

Conclusion:

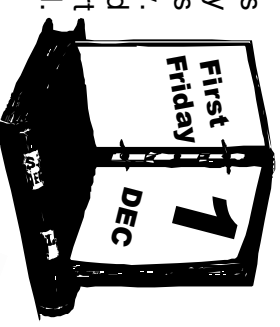
Since the beginning of civilization, men and animals have been fighting each other over territorial rights and unless mankind learn to live with its neighbours, fighting or war is inevitable. It is man’s making and downfall and certainly not a case of
“*Thy will be done*”.

Does Israel want peace? It does but not at any costs. There is a saying of all Israelis. If only the neighbouring countries acknowledge the sovereignty state of Israel as granted in the UN Charter in 1948 there will be peace. Unfortunately, the neighbours think otherwise. **S**



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 the **1st Dec 2006**. 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!





INSPIRATION

Mission Orientation Programme

by Agatha Cho

Marcus and I went for the 8th Mission Orientation Programme at Pattaya, Thailand, from 9-16 November 2006. This programme was initiated by ACMA about 8 years.

We stayed at the Redemptorist Centre in Pattaya and began each day with the Eucharistic Celebration. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Larry Radice, a Maryknoll Father. Fr. Larry, George Chee (from Holy Cross Parish), Irene Tan (from BSC parish) and Angelina Mah (from IHM parish) journeyed with the participants (9 all from Singapore).

This was followed by reflections on the Encyclical on Missionary Activity and visitations in the afternoons. We visited the Redemptorist Vocational School for the disabled, St Camillian Social Center Rayong (Relief center for HIV+/AIDS patients), and Fountain of Life Women's Center and the Fountain of Life Children's Centre (an orphanage).

The late Father Raymond A Brennan, a Redemptorist priest, came to Thailand in 1961. He initiated many charitable organizations for the orphans, deaf and blind students, those who are physically handicapped, old and stateless people and those who are less fortunate in Pattaya. The Fr Ray Foundation was established in 1970. More information is available on the Foundation's website: www.fr-ray.org.

The Camillian Missionaries came to Thailand in the early 1950s to provide the poor with medical treatment. The

St Camillian Social Center is a charitable institution and is operated on behalf of the St Camillus Foundation.

The Fountain of Life Women's Center is run by the Good Shepherd Sisters, Thai Staff and Volunteers. It is a center for marginalized women, exploited by the tourism industry in Pattaya. The Thai staff conducts many courses, such as typing, computer, hair dressing, traditional Thai massage. Other activities include counseling and health education. Volunteers come from many different countries to teach English and other languages. Their email address is folwomen@yahoo.com.

The Fountain of Life Children's Centre is run by the Good Shepherd Foundation. Often families break up and the children are left to be cared for by elderly relatives. At the centre, the children receive not only basic education but also learn about their culture. Their email address is folife@loxinfo.co.th.

The missionaries who served at these places spent much of their time showing us around and sharing about their mission. Irene Tan also shared about her missionary work in China. The sharings were really interesting and thought-provoking. We also watched the movie "Mission" and shared our thoughts. In the movie, the Jesuits laid down their lives for the natives just as our own Blessed Damien did in Molokai.

We also walked through the tourist belt of Pattaya and saw how women and even young boys were exploited by the tourism industry.

The programme is really enriching for me. I have learnt that missions are the "greatest and holiest work of the Church". There is also much Bible reflection for me to do, eg. The Mission Mandate (Matthew 28:18-20), The Final Judgement (Matthew 25:31-46) and Preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16).

I am reminded of the many priests, religious brothers and sisters, who came to Singapore from foreign lands, many years ago, to set up schools, homes and churches. The priests in our own parish came from Holland and have served us for at least 40 years.

Now that Singapore is a developed country , the time is ripe for us to consider doing what the foreign missionaries did in the early days. I also learnt that missionaries are people who have a deep and strong faith and have Christ-like qualities, such as, obedience, love, poverty in spirit, inner peace, commitment, humility, unselfishness, knowledge, forgiveness, service, example and joy.

Above all, I learnt that I too can be a missionary to bring Christ to the world at my own home, church, neighborhood, place of work and community. As a Catholic, I have a responsibility to support mission work through spiritual aid, prayers, donations and personal example.

We are extremely grateful to the four facilitators for their dedication to this programme and are glad to get to know the other participants.

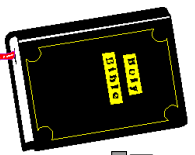
"The question confronting the Church today is not any longer whether the man in the street can grasp a religious message, but how to employ the communications media so as to let him have the full impact of the Gospel message."

Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) 264th Pope

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MPC Schedule (to be pasted)



FROM THE BIBLE

General Outline of the Bible (part 1)

by Thomas Ng

I like Beatrice Ong's Alpha report in Oct. issue of Spotlight circulation. She is absolutely right: the Creator of the Universe wanted us to know Him. The Bible is the Word of God. Personally, I feel that Catholics should really read the Bible more often like other Christians.

The Bible is a collection of sacred books composed under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by men chosen by God. The word Bible comes from the Greek term 'biblia' which means books. The Bible is composed of many books written over a thousand years, from 950 BC to AD 100. Other names for the Bible are Holy/Sacred Scripture, Holy Writ, the Sacred Writings, the Good Book, and the Word of God. Sometimes, we refer the New Testament as **The Gospel** or **The Good News**. It is necessary to have a general knowledge of the outline of the Bible.

The two main parts of the Bible are the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word 'testament' here means agreement or covenant. The Old Testament is a record of the old covenant between God and His chosen people, the Hebrews. It describes the remote preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

The New Testament is a record of the new covenant made by God with the whole humankind through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made Man. Jesus Himself refers to the Old Testament books as 'the Scriptures'. They are also called 'the Law and the Prophets' or 'the Torah'. The writer of the second letter of St Peter (3:16) refers to St Paul's writings as 'Scripture' at a time when the New Testament was just taking shape.

In the Bible, there are 73 books: 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The divisions of the Old Testament are:

1. **The Historical Books** — The Pentateuch (5 books) and 16 other books.

2. **The Seven Wisdom Books**
3. **The Eighteen Prophetic Books**

The **Pentateuch** is the name given to the first Five Books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. They narrate the primitive history of humankind and the actual history of God's chosen people and His laws. The other 16 Historical Books of the Old Testament are: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, and Esther. They deal with the Israelites' history from entry into the promised land to struggle for freedom under the Maccabees.

The Seven Wisdom Books are: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom and Sirach. They are written in poetry or verse. The Wisdom Books, each in its own way, prepare for the solution in the New Testament of the problems they are dealing with. The Psalms alone consist of 150 sacred. Bangs. They are very inspiring and christological.

The Eighteen Prophetic Books are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. These Prophetic Books contain the substance of the prophets' preaching. The Bible mentions more than 40 Prophets, but only 16 of them have left written records.

Protestant Bibles usually have seven less books in the Old Testament: these are collectively known as the **Deuterocanonical Books** (Protestants call them the **Apocrypha**) and they are Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, 1 & 2 Maccabees and Baruch.

The Catholic Church retains them because they were included in the **Septuagint** (the Greek translation of the Old Testament from the third century B.C.), which was the "Bible" of the Apostles and almost all of the Church Fathers regarded them as part of the Old Testament.

To be continued... **S**



PARISH HAPPENINGS

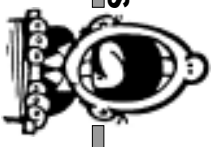
Catechism Classes 2007 by Richard Lowe
(to be pasted)



Congratulations to *Marie Ann Tan Lexi, Cordelia Krishnan & Mary Angeline Dizon Dapitol!* You are our winners for last month's contest!

This month, we'll have our annual **Christmas Front Cover contest**. Submit a cover page (A5 page, no colour) for Spotlight's Christmas issue by 10 Dec and win exciting prizes! There will be 3 winners and the champion's entry will be used as the front cover. *(For children 12 years old and below; not for Spotlight members and their family members)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Projectors in Church

Our church now has two projectors installed to assist the congregation to participate in the Mass more actively. We would like to announce that these projectors and screens were donated to the church by Bro William Chow from the St Ignatius Parish. Bro Chow and his wife were once from this parish and had been active in the Youth Group. We thank him for his generosity and would like to wish him God's Love and blessings.

Spotlight Recruitment - Binder & Cartoonist

Spotlight would like to recruit binders and a cartoonist. If you feel a calling to help out in the production of our parish's monthly newsletter, then contact David at 90 222 439 or spotlight@bsc.org.sg.

Free Chinese Tuition

Chinese School Teacher wants to give free tuition to pupils who want to learn the Chinese Language. Interested, please call Joyce at 6479 8712 at 8pm.