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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

~ FEB 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 Huijes (priest-in-charge)
Rev. Suvono Gerardus (assistant priest)
Rev. Remi Liando (assistant priest)





FROM DAVID'S DESK

I must really get my wife Lynn an extra special gift for Valentine's Day this year. This is because I was on long vacation and I personally witnessed and even experienced arguably the toughest job on the planet: Being a full-time Housewife!

In fact, I've never worked so hard before even at the peak of the busyness period of my job!

As a housewife and mother of my 15-month-old son Xavier, Lynn's day began the moment Xavier awakes at about 7am. And then it's non-stop action (feeding, cooking, washing, ironing etc.) all the way to the night!

And thus, I was actually more exhausted during my vacation and I even looked forward to starting work again!

So husbands, don't forget to appreciate and pamper your wives this coming **Feb 14** - perhaps we can even offer to take over their jobs for one full-day (*for combat-fit husbands only*)...

On behalf of the team, I would like to wish everyone a most prosperous **Lunar New Year!**



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

An Act of Charity

by Ronaldly

INSPIRATION



A newly appointed CEO of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation said, "A donation is a social investment; it has multiplier effects that go beyond the recipient."

Therefore, giving a simple donation is not just an act between the giver and the receiver; it involves the beneficiary and the community at large now and for years to come.

To give a simple illustration, if you donate some money towards the rebuilding of Damien Hall, it is not just giving towards a fund for the physical building. Instead it will be the beneficiary effect when parishioners now and in the future use the different parts of the building: the hall, the meeting rooms, kitchen, toilets etc

Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus: St Paul said "It is blessed to give than to receive" even though the actual saying by Jesus was not recorded in the Gospels (Acts 20:35).

This brings to my mind the coming festive season of Chinese New Year in February; the arrival of Spring and the celebration of new Life where we leave behind our sadness, our sorrows and our unfulfilled aspirations.

Traditionally, the elderly gives an Ang Pow to the younger person and with it, their blessings too. Conversely for the younger working person, it is also a norm to give an Ang Pow to their parents' grandparents, godparents or to someone elderly out of respect for them.

But what do we do with the Ang Pow we receive each year? We tend to indulge ourselves with food, if not, shopping and emotional buying rather than buying things we need. So if the Ang Pow you receive this year does not make you richer with it or poorer without it, why not do this act of Charity by donating it to the Damien Hall Building Fund?

Our life is but a tiny drop of water that makes the mighty ocean but every drop counts. Likewise your donation, no matter how small will benefit the Catholic church community in our parish now and in years to come.

Don't let your Ang Pow go to waste on earth. Heaven knows we need them here - for our new Damien Hall. **S**



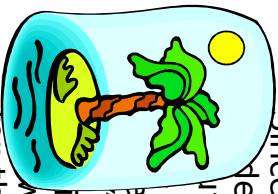
IN RETROSPECT

Friendship & Thanksgiving

by Margie Koh

I've ended the Year 2006 with much to thank the Lord during the midnight mass for filling my life and asked for the blessings and anointing of the Holy Spirit in the New Year.

The Choir sang the ending song, asking Mary the Mother of Our Lord to be with us along the way, before we left the Novena Church. "No man is an island..." Yes, friendship can take away loneliness in life. Good friends bring good influence, and help one another to grow.



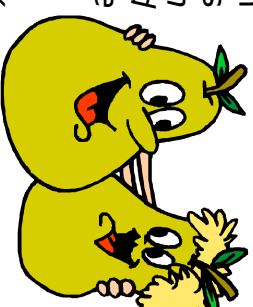
Since the beginning when the LORD God created Adam the man, He was concerned about the man's loneliness and said "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." And for this reason, wedding bells ring in Church services masses across the world for a couple's marriage and for the 'Two to become One'.



It has been said that the greatest attitude is Gratitude, unfolding itself in the goodness of life and that the most powerful force of blessing in life is Love. We are glad and want to thank the Lord for it. We thank the Lord for protecting and providing us through the year. For giving us good friendships to build one another's faith, giving and sharing, and knowing each other better. We thank Him for the short breaks we are able to take with some, to go on pilgrimages, holidays and nearby places too.

Staying as Church. We thank Him for our emailing friends whom we learn the scripture together with all the given religious materials and articles, reflecting them lead us to more of His truth and to walk the light of His pathway each day.

We thank the Lord for giving us good friends of other faith and religions too. Giving and lifting in one another sorrows, pains and joy in times of need is like living in a big family, to give to the Lord, to know that we are all equal in His sight. For God who is LOVE created all of us, want us to imitate Him and be like Him. He who is Good, desires that we may be made alive in Him now to bring about the good in us. Thus we hear the truth in John's letter saying, "*No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us*" (1 John 4:12).



We may have much more to thank Him, but most of all we want to ask for His continuous grace, the Holy Spirit to stay alive in us so that we could do the will of the Father. Today and everyday inside me, I will strive to become a better person for the Lord, to be more encouraging loving and to live meaningfully. **S**

"To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others."

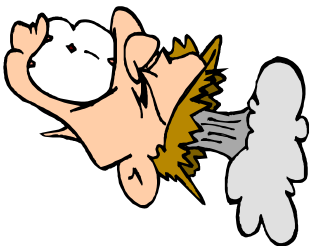
- Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) 264th Pope



Don't Dwell On It

by Patricia Ang

Have you realized that people that you know are bound to disappoint you some way or another? They will either say something or fail to say something that will hurt you. They will do something or fail to do something that will anger you.



Have you realized you make matters worse when you dwell over someone's words and deeds? In fact the more you dwell on such matters, the more bitter you will get. You will find your peace, joy, happiness slipping away. You will find your productivity decreasing as you engage more of your time just thinking about the issues. So how do we prevent ourselves from dwelling on such matters?

My suggestion: take responsibility for your feelings. Even though the other person may be at fault, you are still responsible for your own feelings.

Recently I came across two incidents. Someone was talking unpleasant things about a friend of mine and I stood up for my friend, but as a result of that, I became part of the conversation topic. I made up my mind not to be engaged in such meaningless conversations and walked away from it. Just the other day, another of my friend too had an encounter with her colleague where she heard unpleasant



remarks about her. Though she was fuming mad, she just prayed and stayed focus on her work.

Do you realize that other people do not "cause" your feeling. You choose them. As long as you blame other people for your feeling, as long as you believe other people caused your feeling, you will be a helpless victim.

We also need to learn to forgive. It is difficult, especially when the other person does not seek or deserve your forgiveness. It is difficult when the other person is clearly in the wrong. Part of the difficulty comes from a common misunderstanding of forgiveness.

Forgiveness does not indicate that the other person's behavior is acceptable. Forgiveness too does not mean that the other person is let off the hook. He or she is still responsible for his misbehavior.

Forgiveness is about letting yourself off the emotional hook. It is about releasing your negative emotions, attitudes and behaviors. It is about letting go of the past so that you can surge forward to the future. Everyone in your life is going to disappoint you. If you know how to respond to those situations, you will be able to live above and beyond your circumstances.

For the people who have disappointed, hurt or angered you, are you happy holding on to the bitterness against them? Remember, anytime you feel unhappy or defeated, it is only because you insist on clinging on what is not working in your life. If you find that your bitterness is hurting you, make a decision to let it go.



"Lord forgive me when there are times I choose to do things my way and I end up being hurt and I put the blame on the people around me. Allow me to place my faith and trust in you as I put you the centre on my life and I stay focus on you." **S**



HAPPENINGS

Alpha Christmas Party 2006

by M. Ilan



The Christmas Party for Alpha on 28th December 2006 was an event that I thought would not happen as first of all, the Cabin was small and the carpark was not very inviting. The rains were another reason that would have kept many of us indoors and the tickets were not moving.

But on that day, many were calling to ask for tickets and we had to turn down many as the Cabin could not hold more than 100 people!

We had a very prayerful session remembering Jesus on his birthday. There were a lot of “long-time-no-see” faces around us as many of us have not seen each other for some time. The food was plentiful. The game that we played was fun and the entertainment, from our Music Ministry was entertaining too. We had a skit where we saw some of our “young once” let their hair down. It was enjoyable.

Thank you to all who organized it!

ALPHA RETREAT

There will be a retreat held this year. The Committee will be meeting up to discuss more details on this. Those who are interested to attend can contact David @ 96980870, Conny @ 90116032 or Karl @ 81739754.

ALPHA GATHERING

Our next gathering is on 10 February 2007 at the Cabin at 7.00 pm. It is potluck and fellowship. See you all there!



PARISH HAPPENINGS

Christmas Pageant 2006

by M. Ilan

I have been attending the Christmas Eve Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church since 1992. Over the years, there have been very interesting pageants which I have seen but the 2006 Christmas Pageant was one of the best pageants I have ever watched.

The storyline was different. Instead of the usual cast, there were additions like the animals, who were the first to meet Jesus and the towns' folk who were representing how some of us felt.



The dance by the angels was immaculate and of course it added more colour when we had the two little animal characters joining them. Every cast member acted well and with confidence too.

What really made the night was the Three Wise Men from the East. For the past 14 years, this is the first time I saw adults participating in the pageant. It was so realistic; with the torches they carried and their improvised ‘camels’.

I am sure the songs that were chosen made an impact on many of us who were present - I must congratulate the Parish Priest and the team behind the pageant. I am sure that there was a lot of effort and hard work put into this pageant. The cast too deserve praises as it was good to see a mixture of the adults and children coming together to present the Christmas Story to all of us.

Great work and I was very impressed. Thank you and God bless.

(Check out the photo gallery of the Christmas Pageant at our website: <http://www.bsc.org.sg/multimedia.asp?catid=12>)



Genesis & Ancient Chinese Characters

by Thomas Ng

During 2003, my Anglican friend talked to me on the possibility of the ancient Chinese characters having some connections with Genesis in the Old Testament. In early 2004, I met Mr Joseph Philip Ho, the author of the book on 'God's Gift to the Chinese People' also talked to me on similar topic and I bought his bilingual book. In his forward, Mr Ho stipulates that God has left scriptures in the Chinese language to bring salvation to this generation. I share his view as I feel that some of the ancient Chinese characters resemble biblical words or events in Genesis.

Pictographs were the earliest form of writing in ancient time. Ancient Chinese found that by combining two or more pictographs, a story could be related. Chinese characters were developed from numerous pictographs. Historical events including sacred ones like creation of the earth, the first man and the universal flood could have been incorporated into pictographs and developed into characters with meanings.

For example, the Chinese characters of the Spirit of God (Sheng Ling) are derived from meaningful writing strokes. The entire character of Ling (Spirit) has its meaningful composition if put in biblical sense. This character wonderfully reveals God's powerful creation: "The Spirit of God moved over the waters." (Gen 1:2). The character of Ling is broken down as follows: Rain or Heaven's dew, the three Kou (mouths) signify the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the strokes of Wu mean magical work.

一	+	雨	+	非	=	雷	+	口	口	口	+	巫	=	靈
heaven		cover		water		rain		three		person		worker		Spirit

The character of Zao (to create) has a memorialized work of shaping the first man Adam from the dust of the earth: the character Tu is dust or soil; one Kou is a mouth means able to talk, the downward stroke to the left of Tu indicates movement of life (with living soul), and the last writing at the left to complete the whole character Zao, means able to walk.

土	+	口	+	丿	=	告	+	辶	=	造
dust		breath		alive		to talk		walking		to create
		of mouth								

Adam was created as an adult (who can talk & walk) with living soul when God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. "Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live." (Gen 2:7).

Before the universal flood, God instructed Noah to build an ark, a tremendous boat or vessel to be the refuge during the deluge. The Chinese character Chuan (vessel) has an interesting representation. There are three elements pictured: a vessel (Chuan), eight (Ba) and mouth (Kou) meaning people.

The character 船 : a vessel 舟, eight 八, and mouth 口

The character Chuan tells the story that despite warning and pleading by Noah to his compatriots, there were just eight passengers. "Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives, went into the boat to escape the flood." (Gen 7:7).

I hope the 'components' of the above Chinese characters in biblical sense will be interesting to our readers. I would try later to write about the ancient Chinese sacrifice to God and the ancient Chinese classics as compared with the Bible. **S**