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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

~ JAN 2009 ~

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TWIN HEARTS READING ROOM (LIBRARY)

- Saturday 4-5.30pm & from 7-8pm

- Sunday from 8.30am-1.00pm & from 6.30-7.30pm

- Weekdays (Mon-Fri) from 9-11am

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. Suyono Gerardus (assistant priest)

Rev. Remi Liando (assistant priest)

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He finally saw him. It was definitely a magical moment - especially after watching his daily TV shows, seeing his life-size models as well as having a wide assortment of his merchandise!



On the morning of 16 Dec 2008, in what was probably the most memorable experience of his life to date, my son Xavier met the immortal Mickey Mouse and his friends at the Hong Kong Disneyland.

And even though it was just a short meeting with a rushed photo session, it was good enough for Xavier and in that instant, we all forgot the humongous time and effort expended to prepare for this literally last-minute trip. Nothing, absolutely nothing, beats meeting the real McCoy!

Well, the same goes with meeting the Star of the Christmas season: Jesus Christ. We may have read about Him in the Bible, heard about Him in sermons, saw His blockbuster movies and owned a wide assortment of His merchandise, but nothing, absolutely nothing, beats meeting Him up close and personal.

So have you met Him yet? If not, no worries as it's never a logistical issue to meet Him - He's there in every Mass, in every Adoration room, in every prayer, and in every heart - you need only open your heart:)

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.

On behalf of the Spotlight Team, I wish all readers a most personal and magical experience in meeting the Christ of Christmas!

David Woon

GOD's LOVE

HIS love is faithful and enduring
It is everlasting;
GOD is the source of our ability to love,
HIS love flows into us like a mountain-rill
Gathering momentum in our being,
Flows like an influential river
Of LIVING WATER through our life;
Determining our decisions and actions,
Finally, like a river wending its way to the ocean
Our love finds its way to knowing and loving GOD
Its very source, our Creator GOD;
And channeling this love to others
We love because HE first loved us.

~ Shirley Lau ~

"To celebrate the heart of Christmas is to forget ourselves in the service of others."

Henry C. Link (1889-1952) Psychologist



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

by Thomas Ng

(Main source from excerpt by Daughters of St Paul, USA)

On the festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe (12 Dec 2007), our Ghim Moh CNG had a Thanksgiving Mass in Block 14. During the sermon, the celebrant, Fr Remi, touched on the love of Mother Mary. Indeed, Mother Mary loves all her children in the world including the Aztec Indians of Mexico.

When Spain conquered Mexico around 1521, only few Indians became Catholics. Juan Diego was a 57-year old Indian widower living with his aged uncle, Bernardino, and they both were devoted converts. On 9 December 1531, Juan left his village early to go for Saturday morning Mass. On reaching the foot of Tepeyac Hill, he heard angelic music from above.



Then he saw a luminous cloud encircled by a rainbow. When the music stopped, he heard someone calling him. Juan ascended the hill where he saw a beautiful Lady with dark hair and dark complexion. Her pink dress was brocaded in gold, and the blue mantle on her head was spangled with stars. The Lady had a golden crown on her head. She told Juan in his native dialect who she was. She desired for a shrine to be built

there where she could make known of her love, “to all your fellow men who love me, trust me and ask my help.”

The Spanish-born bishop, Don Juan de Zumarraga, requested Juan Diego to ask her for a sign. But at home, Juan’s uncle was seriously sick and wanted to receive the last Sacraments. The next morning (12 December), Juan tried to avoid the Lady by going another way to get a priest. Near Tepeyac, she appeared to him and assured him that his uncle would get well. She bade him to go up the hill and bring down some roses. Juan was surprised to find a garden of roses (not grown in Mexico then). The Lady then arranged the flowers in his tilma, a sort of cloak he wore.

At the residence of bishop Zumarraga, both Juan and the bishop were shocked to see an imprint on the tilma. On it was the picture of Our Lady - exactly what Juan had seen earlier! Later, the bishop placed the picture in his chapel until the shrine requested by Our Lady could be built. On the same day, the Lady appeared to Juan’s uncle and cured him. She proclaimed herself as the one who crushed the serpent. She also used a word which sounded like Guadalupe (pronounced as Gua-dah-loo-peh), the name of a shrine in Spain.

When the shrine at Tepeyac Hill was completed, the sacred image was transferred there. For the Aztec Indians, the Blessed Virgin Mary was a heavenly Lady of their own kind. She stood with an attitude of peace and prayer, and they could understand that she was more powerful and lovable than their pagan gods and goddesses. For these gods/goddesses gave them no love, but required human sacrifice including babies. Within seven years, eight million Indians were converted. After more miraculous events, Pope Benedict XIV declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the protectress of the unborn and principal patroness of Mexico.

For years, the tilma remains an object which modern science cannot explain. In 1976, a new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe was dedicated in Mexico City. It is the largest Marian Shrine in the world, and is visited annually by 20 million pilgrims. **S**



Treasure of my Life

by Patricia Ang

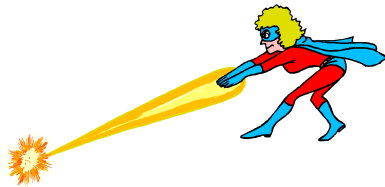


“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” (Matt 6: 19-21)

What is your treasure in your life? Is it power, money or material things?



What about Jesus being the treasure of your life? In his letter to Timothy, Paul tells believers to stop going after earthy riches but to pursue righteousness, faith and love (1 Timothy 6: 11-19).



Are we willing to give Christ total control over our lives? A converted heart is one which we give total reliance to God in our everyday life. It is a daily renewing, a daily change from sin and self. Our health, wealth and prosperity come from Christ; it is not ours to own, but ours to manage for His glory.

One of my 2008 New Year resolutions this year was to spend more time with God. Amazingly, as I seek HIM daily, I am more conscious of his presence. At the start of the

year, a friend gave me 2 blank books, which came in handy as I use them to write quotes and prayers from the Bible and the books that I read, from which I use for reference in my articles. Whenever I go to the book/music stores, I will usually end up in the Christian section, purchasing books and CDs. I really sense his presence listening to the songs and reading the books.

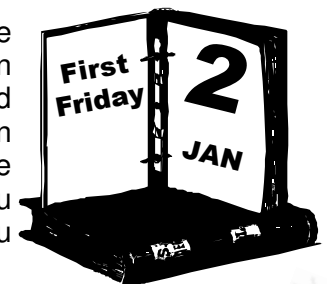
Having served in the recent Alpha 10 and 11 and attended the post Alpha course “A Life Worth Living”, I have met many friends and it has been a joy knowing fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. There is this deep bonding and fellowship among the small groups in our sharing session. Sometimes we can be very exhausted from work, but the moment we attend such sessions, we are just filled with the energy to do His work. “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)



Lord help us to be aware day by day, to depend and trust in you and to reach out to you with hearts of innocence and child-like faith saying to you, “Not my will, but Thy will be done.” **S**

Vigil In Honour Of The Sacred Hearts

Our next monthly first Friday vigil in honour of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be held on **2nd Jan 2009**. 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

The Next Alpha Course - February 2009

The Alpha course will commence its 12th run in BSC in mid-February 2009.

The Alpha course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith. It provides an opportunity for anyone to explore or re-discover the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and non-threatening environment. This is a 10-week course and each Thursday it starts with dinner, followed by an informative and entertaining talk on DVD. Thereafter there is a small group interaction.

Participants are welcomed to say anything and everything, as much or as little as they like and there is no right or wrong answer. It is for anyone; non-Christians, seekers and Catholics who are looking to re-discover the fundamentals of the faith.

Look out for further information and the application forms.

So come and join us for the course in February 2009. Join us as we listen, learn, discuss and discover the Christian faith. And bring along your family, friends and colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you at the Alpha Course!

“This course is a good way to socialize and to bring non-Christians to know about the Lord.” - Lilian

“It was great! The alpha course helped me to experience the Holy spirit and how to pray.” - Ivy

“The Alpha course has changed my personality and now I have a stronger faith in God.” - Irma

“I have grown closer together than when I first came - in friendship and in Christ.” - Theresa

POST ALPHA GROUPS JANUARY 2009 GATHERING

Day/Date: Saturday 10th Jan 2009

Time: 7.15 pm

Place: St. James Room (Level 3)

HIGHLIGHT: Video Talk: No: 4 Healing Through Forgiveness
(Rev. Fr. John Hampsch)

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL. Please bring some food to share:) **EVERYONE IS WELCOME !**



CLASSIFIEDS

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

3-room flat in Teck Whye Lane for sale. Interested, please contact Phyllis at 67692651 or 91049401 (SMS only).