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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

~ JUL 2008 ~

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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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**FROM DAVID'S DESK**



Come 13 July 2008, we would have the chance to see more than 80 of the most beautiful women in the world vie for the coveted crown of Miss Universe 2008 in Vietnam.

But all that glitters may not be gold... especially for our very own Miss Singapore Universe 2008, Ms Shenise Wong, with whom I had the singular privilege of a dinner date.

She faced many criticisms and worst of all, encountered tremendous difficulty in getting sponsorships for her trip to Vietnam - the reason: lack of a business case.

I trembled at what kind of society we are becoming; if money is the foundation of all our endeavours, I fear we won't withstand the storms of life...

In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers us an invincible alternative: The Church led by His chosen representative, our Pope.

To me, our faith is the "mother of all business cases" - what else could yield eternal dividends with miniscule premiums?

*David Woon*

**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.*



**YOUR SAY**

Hi, I just want to say what a good job your church is doing in all of its activities and Masses.

The Masses are done in a traditional way with all of the old hymns revisited by a wonderful choir/band.

The sermons are also very engaging and well-delivered. Kudos to the priests.

One thing that I notice that is exceptional, is the fact that, unlike all the other churches in Singapore, the church engages all the different groups/factions in the church: the rich, poor and middle class. With the growing affluence in Singapore, wealth and influence have permeated even through the noble churches islandwide. Influence and wealth which has altered all aspects of the way the church is run and Masses conducted - a really sorry sight to see.

If it means anything, my wife and I travel from the other end of the island to attend Mass on Sundays at Blessed Sacrament, to relive the ambience of "Church" we used to know it and grew up with throughout our adolescence .

Keep up the good work and God Bless.  
*Your brother in Christ...aka (The Accidental Tourist.)*

***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 **4th July 2008**. 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!

**First  
Friday**

**4  
JUL**



## INSPIRATION

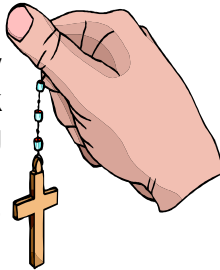
# Hail Holy Queen

by Tricia Lo

In August of 386 while in a garden, Augustine heard a voice saying “Take and read, take and read” (Confessions, 8, 12, 29).

In memory of my first encounter with “The Rosary” by Liz Kelly, this book seemed to jump out of the book-shelf screaming “Take me home, take me home”. Grudgingly I did ‘redeem’ this screeching Rosary. Be that as it may, this manual, turned out to be a superb tutor.

Saying the rosary daily has now become my way of life. Praying the rosary is like taking a walk with our divine family. I often find it quite amazing that even when meditating on the same mystery, it still holds the power to conjure wise solutions to different aspects in life. Perhaps that may be the reason why it is called a mystery.



The holy rosary is proudly our Catholic Heritage; our very own Catholic mobile phone. It is our Jacob’s Ladder to the heavenly realm.

Just as God has named His precious Son, Jesus, and the miracle baby, John (the Baptist), in like manner, I have also asked the Mother of God to help me choose for myself a good Christian name. No petition is too small or too big for our Lady who is all ears. I talk with her practically about everything under the sun. Even small matter like suggestion for a meaningful gift for a friend. Prayer is really a conversation with God. All you need to do is simply take the first step. St. Mary Magdelene had the privilege of being the first to see the risen Christ because she took the first step.

Relying on the rosary is like holding on to the Blessed Mother for

life support. In her company, we are safe with the mystery of life. In times of crises she offers so much comfort and in good days a wonderful companion. Even the recitation of the angelic salutation by itself can bring calmness and stability to one’s heart.

St. John and St. Mary Magdelene were able to complete the journey and reach the cross safely because both of them held on to the Blessed Mother. A compass faithfully points to the northern direction; likewise, the rosary steadfastly points to the North Star, our Savior Lord Jesus Christ and guides us safely to the Blessed Trinity.

Due to the Blessed Mother’s intercession, Simon of Cyrene, the reluctant cross bearer, was called to support Jesus’ irreversible mission of endorsing the new commandment to love one another. In God’s plan, no encounter is accidental or coincidental. Every meeting has a driven purpose.

At the foot of the holy cross, Christ, through St. John, entrusted us to the care of the Blessed Mother just as in the beginning God gave custody of his only Son, Jesus, to the Blessed Virgin Mary. One early evening while standing at the shrine of our Lady in the garden compound of our church and enjoying the peaceful hot breeze, the following prayer suddenly flashed through my mind :

*Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray.  
God was just your little boy.  
Tell me what to say.*

Smiling to our Lady, I mentally asked :

*Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to write and what to say.*



This article is the fruit harvested from my simple prayer to our Lady on that day. I now dedicate this submission as an acknowledgement and thanksgiving to the Holy Virgin, the Immaculate Conception for teaching me how to pray. **S**



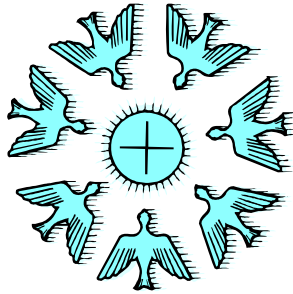
## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### Pre-Confirmation Camp (9-11 June 2008)

by Christabelle, Kelley and Isabelle

Pre-confirmation camp, another church camp! One word flashed through my mind: "BORING!". But when I realised that the second and third day was a stay-over, I started looking forward to it; I mean staying over with your friends... 'cool isn't it?' Little did I know that it was going to be an experience I will always remember.

So finally the first day came. It started off with Mass and the usual ice-breakers for us to get to know the Sec 2's better. Still not really interested with what was going on, I watched a video about a teenage girl, Sophie, on her point of view on confirmation and who the Holy Spirit is to her. What she said was an eye opener by which I realised a little bit more about whom the Holy Spirit really is to me.



There were two talks by 2 presenters, B1 and B2, and one of the talks really touched me. It was how Jesus had and is helping him in times of difficulty and how Jesus had opened his eyes. It made me wonder who Jesus really is to me.

Following that were games and the first day concluded with Bible skits. We had to act out parables from the Bible and through that, we discovered the hidden morals behind each parable.

The second day we came all geared up for the stay-over that I had been anticipating. The following two days were

more of a retreat than a camp. It was conducted by Fr Gerard and the Redemptorist Mission Team (RMT). The theme was 'Jesus My Friend'. We all had secret pals to do special things for us during the camp. These secret pals would write short notes to us and we did not know who they were. We talked about how we pictured Jesus in our lives. Was He a teacher? A friend? A soccer player?

We had some games that taught us the importance of trust and teamwork and that we should learn to trust God and work with him hand in hand.

The most meaningful part of the camp to me was the 'Reconciliation' part. We walked through stations on the last moments of Jesus' life and we reflected on it and related it to our lives. We ended with a good confession and praise & worship.

On the last day we learned more about the twelve apostles and what they said and did after the time of Jesus' death. This was then followed by intercessory prayers where six of us volunteered to pray for something. We then celebrated Mass which was quite different because Fr Gerard explained the entire Mass to us. We were taught on how to receive Jesus' body and blood meaningfully and with reverence. After the Mass, our secret pals were revealed. The whole camp taught us more about Christ.

I was asked if the camp was too long and I said "No"; in fact, it was too short especially when we were just beginning to get the "cool feeling".

On behalf of all those who attended, we would like to thank God for touching us in His little ways through this camp. We also like to thank our catechism teachers in organizing this and Fr Gerard and the RMT for conducting it. **S**





## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### Celebrating Father's Day with the 'Fathers'

by Audrey Lim

Saturday, 14 June 2008 - 36 parishioners from The Blessed Sacrament Church gathered at the Penang Place Restaurant to celebrate Father's Day with 2 retired Sacred Heart Fathers - Fr Albert Renckens and Fr Fabian van Lieshout.

Grace Tan and Louise Dias from the Catholic Neighbourhood Group (CNG) planned and co-ordinated the celebration and the response was very encouraging.

The lunchtime buffet gathering ended after 2 hours of fellowship amidst lots of laughter, and chit-chat. As for me, attending the celebration was indeed meaningful as I had a chance to put a face to many names that I've heard but have not met.



*Photograph with courtesy from Louise Dias*

*"The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish."*

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

**Youth Section  
Vibes (see hardcopy)**

**Youth Section  
Vibes (see hardcopy)**

**Youth Section  
Vibes (see hardcopy)**



Congratulations to **Rachel Tan, Caleb Lo & Jude Flavian Francis!** You are our winners for last month's Spotlight contest!

To win exciting prizes, work out which letters are missing from the alphabet, then rearrange them to spell the name of something found in the kitchen. Submit your entry by 6th July 2008.  
*(For children 12 years & below; not for Spotlight members & family members)*

## Youth Section Vibes (see hardcopy)

[See Hardcopy]

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

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



## IN RETROSPECT

### St Paul - The Great Missionary

by Thomas Ng

Paul was born a Jew (Pharisee) with Roman citizenship between AD 7 to 10. His original name was Saul. He received a good learning of Greek and studied to be a rabbi. In his younger days, he was well known for persecuting Christians. Stephen was stoned to death in his presence. It was on his way to Damascus that he encountered Our Lord Jesus around AD 36. That experience resulted in his conversion to Christianity, changing his name to Paul.

After that, he went to Jerusalem and conferred with the authorities there. After returning to his hometown, Tarsus, he went to Antioch to work with Barnabas around AD 44. Paul worked hard to spread the Gospel both among high nobility and common Jews and Gentiles. He risked his life and suffered much in his travels.

As a great missionary, Paul wrote more books of the Bible than any other author. He sent letters of encouragement and instruction to churches in many cities. At least thirteen of these letters were included in the New Testament (it is still speculative whether Paul wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews).

Although Paul respected Peter as Head of the Apostles, his righteousness made him point out to the latter for his wrongdoing. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul revealed to them that he told Peter that he was wrong to withdraw himself from eating with the Gentiles when some Jews arrived (Gal. 2:11-14).

Based on this event, there were non-Christian writers commenting that Paul could not agree with Peter. Some even wrote that it was Paul who discarded something written by Peter about Jesus (including his travels abroad). This is certainly not true! According to modern scholars, Paul might have different views with Peter only in practical organisational issues, but not in theological teaching. In fact, Paul had been working along well with Peter. They both even came to Antioch shortly after the

decision on circumcision at the Jerusalem Council. *“Though frank in his assertion, Paul apparently regarded Peter as a person of greater consequence than himself.”* (The New Jerome Biblical Commentary, page 784, No. 18)

Tradition mentions that Paul was short, balding, with crooked legs and a hooked nose. His speech was also not dynamic. However, it was Paul, who, in the early days of Christianity, silenced and suppressed the false teachers, Judaizers and Gnostics. His teaching on ‘justification’ showed his ability to tackle his opponents. He claimed himself an ‘Apostle’ not as the 12 traditional Apostles, but as ‘bearer’ or ‘missionary’ of Christ.

In Jerusalem, Paul was imprisoned, released but placed under house arrest again. He was even sent to Rome for trial. Finally, he was released because of insufficient evidence against him. It is believed that he was persecuted by the Roman emperor Nero, and was beheaded in AD 67.

Modern scholars say that it was grace that made Paul so incredibly effective. Previously a stern Pharisee and a Christian-hater, Paul accepted God’s calling to become a great missionary.

Pope Benedict XVI recently announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate his missionary zeal and spirit of sacrifice. The Pauline year will run from 28 June 2008 to 29 June 2009. Praise be to God! **S**



## HAPPENINGS

### ALPHA RECOLLECTION DAY

Especially for the Alpha Team, PAG Members, Service Team Alpha 11

**Day/Date:** Saturday 12th July 2008 **Time:** 7.15 pm to 10 pm

**Venue:** Damien Hall

**Theme:** COME AWAY & SPEND SOME TIME WITH ME!

**POTLUCK MEAL:** Please bring some food to share.

**Note:** Kindly bring a pen and a note book.

**Church of the Blessed Sacrament Celebrates  
National Day  
with Our Dear Housebound Parishioners**



**DATE:** 9 August

**TIME:** 11am to 1pm

**PROGRAM:** Mass followed by Lunch and Fellowship

If you know of someone who would like to attend, please register via email ([spotlight@bsc.org.sg](mailto:spotlight@bsc.org.sg)) or at the church office.

Car owners who would like to provide transport, kindly leave your name and number with the church office or via the above email.

For more details, call **64740582** or email [spotlight@bsc.org.sg](mailto:spotlight@bsc.org.sg)