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Special Highlights

~ JULY 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

They are difficult to talk to - They are stubborn - They have a "who-cares?" attitude - They trust their friends more than family - They listen to terrible music - They splurge money on unnecessary things - They are our youths, and we, the "I-know-what's-best-for-you" adults, tend to forget that they are our future, the next generation of leaders...



I have many teenage nephews and nieces, and I know how hard it is to communicate with them. Very often, we adults tend to think that the problem lies solely with them - the truth cannot be further! Communication is the responsibility of both parties, and in fact, the greater responsibility lies with the party who's more mature!

Once we recognise our responsibility, the next step is to drop all our pre-conceived biases towards them. I assure you that you would then be able to get into their world and find that they are actually a fascinating lot, just like us... when we were teenagers!

From this issue onwards, Spotlight would be doing its part in bridging this "generation" gap by having a permanent section dedicated to the youths! And please, my dear rational adults, do not SKIP the section! Read it, understand it, contemplate it - I think we need to do so more than the youths themselves

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.

because it's one good and easy way to understand them and stay forever young at heart!

David Moan

**Youth Section - Vibes
(see hardcopy)**

**Youth Section - Vibes
(see hardcopy)**

**Youth Section - Vibes
(see hardcopy)**





PARISH HAPPENINGS

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

15th April 2007

A report by the PPC committee.

The Parish Pastoral Council of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament met on the afternoon of April 15, 2007. The central theme was the building of strong parish community, principally through the formation of small Christian communities, or Catholic neighbourhood groups. Christian community is the realization of Christ's commandment: "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

The Small Christian Community as a basic unit of the Church

Monsignor Eugene Vaz explained that Vatican II (1962-1965) was called to study the meaning of church. The council intended to result in a church that carries out the mission of Christ "in communio" (comm-with, union). Priests, religious and laity with different roles, but in union with each other to carry on the mission of Christ; everyone to accept their responsibility to be the people of God, to be the light of the world.

In 1995, the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference proposed that in order for the laity to be in union with each other, and with the priests and religious in the mission of Christ, parishes in Asia should be organized to comprise of smaller communities - small Christian communities.

The concept of small Christian communities is rooted in Scripture. Jesus made 12 individuals into pairs (a community of two) to go out on mission to witness. (Mark 6:7-13). This resulted in many individuals coming together to listen to Jesus. And Jesus organized them into groups; (Mark 6:39-44); he called them into communio so that he could feed them spiritually and physically. In the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:42-47), the witness of early Christians - in the way they lived as a community, in their unity in daily life, prayer and worship - caused them to be "looked up by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved."

Because Catholic neighbourhood groups are a part of the church, they must embody the characteristic of the Church as a whole. From the Apostles Creed - I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. One - in communio, united; leaving no one out. Holy - to be holy as God is holy. Catholic - universal, welcoming everyone. Apostolic - to carry on the mission of Jesus.

Monsignor Vaz recommended that the PPC be used to investigate the

pastoral needs of the parish. A pastoral team could be then be set up with training from the Singapore Pastoral Institute to in turn help train leaders to lead the small Christian communities. He suggested that an effective way of maintaining a sense of community amongst Catholics in a block was to keep them informed of the activities organised to help out neighbourhood group members; and to be open to participation in such activities.

Mission is not merely service within the Church

Sister Sabine pointed out that in Singapore, many Catholics mistakenly take service within the church as fulfilling their part in carrying out the mission of Jesus. While service within the church is needed, mission is "being Christ where you are, and carrying out his work." The vision for the people of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament : *be a living expression of the Blessed Sacrament.*

In November 2006, the parish assembly agreed on this vision for the parish : for all to be a living expression of the Blessed Sacrament. There were five key initiatives to realize this vision:

1. deepen the prayer life of parishioners,
2. deeper formation (knowledge and understanding) of our faith,
3. build a community of love,
4. proclaiming our faith through evangelization,
5. caring for others within and outside our community through social service.

All of the initiatives are an ongoing effort, but the Parish Pastoral Council has met in April 2007 to discuss the challenges of building a community of love via the Catholic neighbourhood groups.

The love of Christ must be the foundation of Christian community

Fr Anthony Hutjes spoke about two obstacles to having healthy and growing Catholic neighbourhood groups in our parish.

The first is either a lack of awareness amongst Catholics that it is not an option that to love one another as Christ loves us, or it is the failure to live this commandment. "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

The love of Christians for one another is not human love or even like; it is the ability to love each other in the same way that Christ loves us which makes us unique as Christians. The Catholic neighbourhood group is a natural attempt to realize the commandment of Jesus - it is an end result of Christians practising the love of Christ. It is a living expression of being the Blessed Sacrament - the body of Christ.

We allow our city lifestyle to prevent us from forming Christian community

The second obstacle is the trend towards individualism and temporary relationships,

both of which are characteristics of city living. The anonymous, fast paced and very dynamic lifestyles we lead cause us to have fleeting social interactions based on short term needs, likes and interests. The challenge for Christians is to recognize this and not allow this to hinder us from forming communities based on the permanence of Christ's love.

The plan to build Christian community in our parish

The PPC committee and the PPC ex co have endorsed a proposal from Fr Anthony Hutjes to deepen and widen the practice of Christian community in our parish. This plan has these steps:

1. A parish census to let us know who are the Catholics within our parish boundary.
2. A parish mission conducted by the Redemptorist fathers which involves house to house visitation of Catholics to understand their needs and to sensitize people to the need for community.
3. Block masses will be conducted as a means of encouraging people to know each other within a block.
4. A parish renewal experience as a means of bringing together the Catholics within a neighbourhood as a follow up to the Redemptorist mission.
5. Encouraging people within a zone who attend the PRE to participate in Catholic neighbourhood groups as an ongoing action to live the love of Christ.

Reflections and discussions on the topic of Catholic neighbourhood groups by PPC councillors

After the sharing of the parish vision, and the talks by Monsignor Vaz and Fr Anthony touching on Christian community from the viewpoint of Vatican II, centred on the love of Christ, and the two barriers of ignorance/ignoring and sociological aspects of city life, the PPC councillors were invited to reflect on problems and solutions for the neighbourhood groups in the parish.

The councillors then formed four groups, and each group summarized the thoughts of all members. The PPC felt that the a lack of commitment to the CNG, either as a new or existing member, stemmed from a reluctance to commit personal time. The reason for this is because people do not understand why they should set aside time to meet as a Christian community - i.e. the purpose of the CNG is not understood. The general recommendation is then to increase the awareness (marketing) and education of parishioners at the parish, CNG leadership, and CNG grass roots level.

The PPC also felt that renewal for CNG leadership and ongoing support for CNG leaders was necessary. Better understanding of the needs of the people who attend the CNG, being trained to deal with group and social situations (eg. ice-breaking) were some aspects of leadership that were mentioned. Follow up is potentially the incorporation of the PPC reflections into the parish mission of the Redemptorists. **S**



IN RETROSPECT

Bible Versions

by Thomas Ng

Some time ago, I had been asked by Catholics on the various Bible versions. Here, I would describe the five most widely circulated Catholic versions in their chronological order of publication.

The Douay-Rheims Version is the first English version translated directly from the best Latin Vulgate. The New Testament was first published by the English College at Rheims in 1582. The Old Testament was published by the English College at Douay in 1609. This version was then succeeded by the Challoner version in 1750 by Bishop Challoner. Although the old English texts may not suit many young readers of today, the elderly Catholics still feel that it is inspiring.

The Revised Standard Version (RSV) (1946) is an authorised revision of the American Standard Version in 1901. The RSV seeks to preserve all that is best in the English Bible. The new version (NRSV in 1990) has the closest translation to the original Greek and Hebrew texts. It is now used as a study Bible and has a Catholic edition.

The Good News Bible or Today's English Version (1966) was published by the United Bible Societies of America. This version was translated into easy-to-understand English. It is popular as it is more useful for private reading than for study.

The Jerusalem Bible was prepared by British Catholic scholars. It is regarded as an accurate and clear version with ecumenical appeal, and is used in Catholic churches. In its first translation, the English had more or less been rendered from French. However, in the 1980's, improvement has taken place in The New Jerusalem Bible.

The New American Bible (1970) is the work of members of the Catholic Biblical Association, USA. This version seeks to be suitable for liturgical use and private reading, and is popular inside and outside USA.

Catholics should seek advice from the priests if they want to make sure which Catholic version they should choose. Whichever version we use, it is best to implore the Holy Spirit for inspiration before our Bible reading. **S**



PARISH HAPPENINGS

**Cafe 5: Catholics Making a Difference
(see hardcopy)**

**Cafe 5: Catholics Making a Difference
(see hardcopy)**



PARISH HAPPENINGS

CENSUS TAKING AND PARISH MISSION 2007

by Richard Lowe

Under the instructions and blessings from our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Anthony Hutjes, many of us parishioners have started going door to door, block to block to the various estates within the boundaries of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. The main purpose is to update the census of parishioners. The last Census Taking and Parish Mission was carried out many years ago, I think in the late eighties.

We have had many warm responses from parishioners. Nevertheless, there were a few unpleasant experiences. I think many of the parishioners are not aware that whenever we 'move' to a new estate, the onus is on us to register with our 'New Parish'. All it takes, is to fill up a census card indicating the members of the household who are living in that particular flat.

Similarly, it is our duty to inform our 'former parish' that we have moved out so that they can update their records. That does not mean that we cannot attend another church. We are free to attend mass at any church we choose. But whatever you prefer, it is recommended that we attend the church of our choice regularly, so that we will have a sense of belonging to this particular parish.

We need to remember that should we wish to get married or need to have an anointing in the family or a funeral mass/ service conducted, it is the parish that we belong to, that will perform these Sacraments.

Another thing that I think many parishioners are not aware of, is that when one is warded in a particular hospital in Singapore,

it is the church nearest to the hospital who will send their priests or representatives to pray for the sick or bring holy communion. But of course for Anointing of The Sick, it is the priest who will administer this sacrament. It is not the parish you belong to whose priests or representative who will visit you.

And so, if we need the priest or the church's representative to minister to us, we must inform them. At the same time, when we are discharged from the hospital, it is common courtesy that we must inform the church office so that the priest or the minister will not need to have to make a futile trip.

** Footnote: Blessed Sacrament Church – (established in 1963) - Pop. of about 4000 members. For the Pastoral Care in Hospitals, please refer to page 123 of the Official Catholic Directory & Ordo 2007*



HAPPENINGS

IT'S BACK ! IT'S BACK !

THE ALPHA COURSE.

Yes, The 10th Alpha Course is back and we praise and thank God as it will be in the NEW HALL.

The Course will commence on 16 August 2007, Every Thursday @ 7pm to 10 pm with Dinner. Registration forms are available at the Church Office.

Some words of our last alpha guest.

"I was at a stage in my life with a lot of questions and I guess I joined the alpha at the right time!"

EVERYONE IS WELCOME !

MONTHLY GATHERING OF ALPHA

This will be held on 2nd Saturday of July, 14 July from 7.15 pm to 10pm. It will be an evening with either a Video or Live Talk. Potluck Fellowship Meal! Again everyone is welcome!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Twin Hearts Reading Room
by Colleen Thomas

Imagine curled up in a cosy corner with warm wood interior, freshly brewing coffee, soothing music while looking out a picture window. No, not Starbucks but none other than the Twin Hearts Reading Room in your own parish... Blessed Sacrament Church! Its just like a chic café so that you can't help wanting to hang out and get a good read.

Do you know that our library has over 1000 books, DVDs, VCDs Christian movies newspapers, magazines, rare classics and even cookbooks, making it possibly the BIGGEST Christian public library on this Island! If you know of any bigger one let us know... otherwise we will lay claim to the title! BSC may well be the first multimedia Christian library with internet access, wi-fi, multipeaker sound system and large screen LCD for movie buffs!

What is more, we want YOU to be a Twin Hearts Book Lover by joining the community of Librarians meeting for book club sharings, movies, talks and more! We're specially reaching out to young people and even kids to join us; we want to have at least 40-50 Twin Hearts Book Lovers! Or if you just want to borrow, all you need is a photo ID with a bar code eg. NRIC, driver's license, NTUC club membership card etc. No membership form required - we are fully computerized.

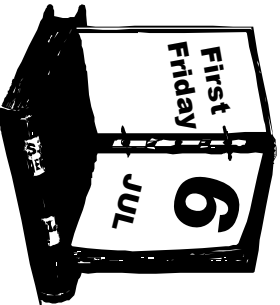
All are welcome... parishioners/non-parishioners, Catholics/non-catholics, Singaporeans/non-Singaporeans. You are all invited for the grand opening projected sometime in July... will be announced at the Sunday Mass soon!
If interested call/sms Claire @ 82445382 or fill the form below:

_____ cut here and return to parish office _____
YES! I WANT TO BE A TWIN HEARTS BOOK LOVER!

Name:..... Tel:..... Mobile:.....

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 July 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.



Congratulations to Jude Francis, Malcoln Naidu & Jacinta Francis! You are our winners for last month's **Relax** Spotlight contest! To win exciting prizes, unscramble the words below and complete the verse, and send in your entries by 8 July 07.
(For children 12 years & below; not for Spotlight members & family members)

(see hardcopy)

Name: _____ Age _____
Address: _____