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# Special Highlights

~ MAY 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

April is Passion month for me. Firstly, my computer broke down on 1 April and I realised to my horror that I last backed up my data half a year ago. Next I lost my voice to a nasty sore throat. Then I had to go for reservist training for 10 days. During that period, I had recurring fevers which never subsided even after I finished the antibiotics. At one point, I was so sick that I thought I would need to be hospitalised and wouldn't be able to produce this month's Spotlight...



I was lost in the valley of darkness and found it very difficult to pray. Then it dawned on me that I should ask others to pray for me! I asked my family, friends and all the prayer powerhouses I knew to pray for my fever.

The following day, my fever came down miraculously and I was able to work on this Spotlight issue, praise God! I would like to express my deep appreciation for all those who prayed for me!

I've learnt one important lesson: never forget the power of prayer, especially **community prayer**. That is why the Church emphasised the importance of community living; God wants us to grow together, to pray for one another and to love one another, and that through

us, the community of believers, others may come to know and believe in His Son!

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*The mission of Spotlight is to help parishioners and to support faith formation through inspired articles and drawings via the Spotlight newsletter and the BSC Website.*

*David Ngan*



## HAPPENINGS

**Alpha** HURRAY!!! WE'RE COMING BACK SOON.....

That is ... **THE ALPHA COURSE... NUMBER 10.**

Held every Thursday; tentatively slotted for 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007. *Bring a friend or a relative to come to know Jesus Christ.*

Get your mind cracking....think of someone whom you can invite to this **ALPHA COURSE**. It may be the best 'gift' you give to this person !

Further details will be announced in the next issue of SPOTLIGHT.  
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Here are a few testimonies of those who attended an Alpha Course:

*"I'm so touched by the appearance of Fr. Anthony at each session. The organizing committee really put in a lot of effort for every session".*  
 Jill Foo

*"The Alpha Course helped me to come closer to God. I now pray more often after the Alpha Course".* Jenny Wong

*"Listening to testimonies by the brothers and sisters was very interesting. The practical topics and searching issues discussed helped me a lot".* Bruce Ng

*"It was a very nice feeling to feel the warmth and dedication of the Team involved in running the Alpha Course after week".*

Terence Leo

**THERE WILL BE NO ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.**

These gatherings will resume in June or July. Watch out for announcements in the Spotlight or on Posters.



## IN RETROSPECT

# Trust

by Patricia Ang

Trust. What is TRUST to us today? How much is TRUST worth in today's society? We live in a world that is filled with suspicion, conspiracy, betrayal, deceit and dishonor. As a result of some of these actions that we encounter, this leads to a lack of trust of one another. So, why TRUST?

Amidst all the trials and tribulations, are we willing to trust in God entirely, are we willing to surrender every aspect of our lives to Him? Have you been asking God what is He going to do for you? Believe in God as you know Him to be when you are nearest or even far away from Him. This is a test of your trust in Him. Let the attitude of your life be a continued willingness to be dependent upon Him and your life will have a sacred and an inexpressible charm that will be pleasing to God.

Trust is the link that brings us into a relationship - any relationship. Without trust we are lost in our own world. How then does one develop trust? Here are some of the ways:

### Be Honest

Try opening up and talk honestly about ourselves, our problems, our needs, though at times it may feel uncomfortable to do so. However, when we take that risk, the people around us will also tend to be more open and honest with us and that is how trust begins to build up in relationships.

### Be Trusting

We encourage people to behave in a trustworthy fashion by trusting them, giving them the benefit of doubt. We

must try to resist the temptation of adopting a judgmental attitude to others. Moreover, by being trusting, others tend to trust us too. *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Laws and the Prophets."* (Matt 7:12)

### Be Reliable

Being reliable is doing what we say we will do, whether or not it is convenient. This means honoring our commitments, whether big or small. This means calling when we say we will, showing up for appointments on time, keeping our word to our family and friends.

### Be Relationship-oriented

Trustworthy people are those who can successfully nurture and preserve relationships with others. This takes commitment and effort; it means taking the time to catch up with our friends periodically, helping to do the housework at home to lighten the load on our family members and being there for our children at their school events.

### Have Faith

We will find it easier to trust ourselves and others if we first trust God. God is always there standing by us through thick and thin. His love for us is secure. This allows us to relax and trust in Him.

But in stressful, confusing situations, we might ask a worried "What now?" Yet if we look to the Lord and trust in His care, our fear will be replaced with peace. Just as God determines the weather, He also controls the ups and downs in our lives. *"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."* (Eccl 3:1). Do we resist these seasons and complain about the conditions or do we trust God and thank Him for whatever he has planned for us? **S**



## IN RETROSPECT

### Our God is Good

by Margie Koh

The goodness of God is something that draws us to Him with cords of love. "Good and upright is the Lord therefore He instructs sinners in His ways", so sings the Psalmist (Psalm 25:8). Therefore good for evil is commanded as 1 Thess 5:15 says, "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else."

The article written by Patricia Ang in the Spotlight entitled, 'Don't Dwell On It', caught my eyes with these few lines: *Have you realized that people you know are bound to disappoint you in 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...*

I have also encountered one such incidence with a friend in church. Our friendship began with a casual conversation to check on her poor health. Very often she would talk to me about her family members, her ailing mother and share about her problems and troubles and I would listen. For some years, we got on fine as friends, and I always helped her whenever necessary. And we got closer and I often invited her over to my place for a meal or stay overnight to keep her company before she got married and had her own house.

Strangely, one day, out of no reason, I realised she just didn't want to talk to me anymore. Whenever I saw her coming my way I would try first to give her a smile but she would turn away my warmth and gave her back to me instead. Sometimes to hurt me further, she would even give a nasty look before walking away. I certainly was puzzled at her behavior at first but after a while, I told myself if she is going to behave so childishly and wish to remain this way, then let it be. As for me, I don't want to dwell on it. And God knows better and He heals every wound.

*"Why do you ask me about what is good? Jesus replied, "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." (Matt 19:17) S*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Malayalam Group:** For the month of May, there will be rosary prayers before the evening Mass followed by devotion to Our Lady in Malayalam after Mass. All are welcome.

### Corpus Christi Dinner

**Date:** 10 June 2007 from 8pm to 10:30pm

**Venue:** Harbour City Restaurant, PSA Building

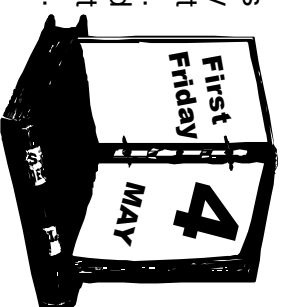
Tickets at \$30 each. Sale starts on 5 May 2007 at our temporary canteen.

*"If we wish to evangelize the world, each one of us must begin by trying to become a saint."*

**- Archbishop John Patrick Foley, President of Social Communications, Vatican**

### 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 May 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. Hope to see you there!





## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### The Lord's Supper, The Passion and Easter

by Richie Lowe and Anne Sent Doux

This is the first time BSC had a beautiful and busy Holy Week. The Ex-co council planned the Triduum talks by the Verbunm Dei Sisters. This was new and inspiring (The next article is their writeup).

### Holy Thursday

The Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper was celebrated by Fr. Suyono. It was motivating to witness the young altar servers representing the 12 apostles at the Washing of the Feet. I am sure these youths felt proud to be called to participate in this service where they are taught to set an example to others to be like Christ in the way he served others. In his sermon, Fr. Suyono preached about humility. He reminded us to be humble in our actions and character in our daily lives.

The Altar of Repose was beautifully decorated. Not allowing groups to pray loudly or chant enabled many of us to concentrate and reflect on our lives, as we spent precious moments with Our Lord.

Despite the mess around the church grounds due to the on-going construction works, the food sold by the various stalls provided much respite to parishioners and visitors alike with much needed refreshment after the Mass. Many parishioners, past and present, met up around these stalls to catch up with one another. Their attention was drawn immediately to the 'almost completed new Damien Centre'. You could sense how excited they were, as they talked animatedly about the new building.

### Good Friday

As usual, there were three Good Friday services at our church. And the church was filled to capacity for all the three services. We had to switch

on all the wall fans even though the air-conditioners were being turned on full blast. These services provided a more solemn mood with the crucifixion of Our Lord.

Many parishioners were disappointed at the Veneration of the Cross as the usual "bunga rampai" was not distributed to them. We are not really sure why this Portuguese 'tradition' of giving out some scented cut leaves and flower petals was discontinued. Many identified this tradition as myrrh used to anoint Jesus after His crucifixion.\*

In the evening, we had a very meaningful "Good Friday" with the St. Francis Music Ministry presenting a shadow play on the Passion of Our Lord. The attendance for this shadow play was very encouraging.

The enactment of Christ being whipped by the Roman soldiers brought many of us to tears. To realize that all the sins we have committed against him, to be crucified, made us feel rotten. All the players really performed very well. Kudos to them all! It was a fabulous show. At the end of the evening, many went away teary eyed. It was pretty obvious that some of us were inspired and touched by the enactment of Jesus' Passion.

### Holy Saturday Night - Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil began with the lighting of the 'bonfire' and Paschal Candle just outside the Priests' House. Then the congregation went in procession with lighted candles, into the church which was in total darkness.

Fifteen catechumens were baptized and 1 Christian received into the Catholic Church. Fr. Remi's singing of the Exultet in the church, with everyone carrying a lighted candle lent an air of 'holiness' to the start of the ceremony. The floral decoration around the sanctuary added a sense of gaiety, the altar boys ringing the bells when the Gloria was sung, our 3 priests celebrating together and not forgetting Fr Anthony singing "Let us praise the Lord" 16 times added warmth and a feeling of being new. A big thank you to all who made the week a joyous occasion. **S**

\* According to Fr Anthony, the tradition was discontinued by Fr Martin but he does not mind re-instating it if many parishioners insist on it and if the origin of the tradition was clarified.



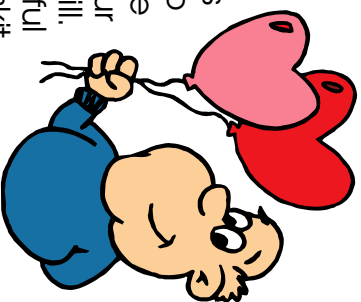
## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### “Come and Learn to Love like Jesus”

by Sr Sandra Seow, MVD

“Come and Learn to Love like Jesus” - This was the general theme for the Holy Week Triduum that was held in our parish from 2nd to 4th April. The talks for the three nights were prepared by us, the Verbum Dei Missionaries. We touched on various topics in order to help the parishioners, before celebrating the Paschal Mystery of Christ, to reflect and deepen on the meaning of Jesus’ love and how, we too, are called to love like him in our daily lives. For those three nights, all were invited to enter into God’s School of Love and to learn from him how to love with our heart, mind and will.

On the first night, I had the privilege to share with the people on this topic of “Love as I have loved you”. It was a challenging one because we, as humans, tend to love selectively and to love with our emotions. Yet, the challenge for all of us is to transcend our feelings, our likes/dislikes, etc, and to love with our will. After my talk, we were led into a prayerful reflection with PowerPoint presentations, skit and songs.



The next night, Sr. Maria Jose presented to us the topic of “He loved them to the very end”. In her talk, Sr. Maria Jose pointed out what “to the end” in quality and time, meant in the life of Jesus, which was to the cross and continues to his self-giving in the Eucharist. She challenged us too to love to the end by using our heart, mind and strength, because at the end of our earthly journey, the question which God would

ask each of us is: “Have you loved?”, rather than asking to see our titles, the number of promotions, the size of our cars, etc.

Later, we listened to a testimony given by one of our friends, Kenneth Phua, as he shared with us his concrete struggles to love in his life. We ended the night by making our own commitments on pieces of papers on how we too want to love those around us during the Holy Week and for the rest of our daily lives. Our commitments were offered as part of the offertory gifts in the Mass the next night.

The final night! We ended the Triduum with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Suyono. During the homily, Sr. Leticia Candelario delivered the talk, “Love is stronger than death”. She shared with us that to love is to forgive people in our lives, thus, it is in this way that we bring hope to them. This is precisely the resurrection of Jesus that brings to us - hope! After the talk, in order to put this into practice, we were invited during the Sign of Peace to have a person whom we find difficult to love and to forgive him/her in our mind and to pray for that person. Only then, we can turn to one another and to truly offer each other the sign of Peace. The Mass ended with a healing session, led by Fr. Suyono, Sr. Leticia and the members of the Charismatic team.

We are grateful to Richard Phua and the St. Francis Choir who sang with much gusto for God as they led all of us into Praise and Worship before the start of each session, in order to prepare our hearts to listen him throughout the two nights. They were the choir too for the Eucharistic Celebration.

We want to thank the priests and parishioners for giving us the opportunity to prepare ourselves, together as a community, for the beautiful event of The Paschal Mystery of Christ. **S**



## INSPIRATION

# Marian Miracles in Naju

by Thomas Ng

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, throughout the world including Singapore, there was a zeal for Marian Apparitions. Books and articles were published and various Marian movements were organised for devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was true that Mary, in the past and in recent years, did appear (even with miraculous events) in different countries in the West, in America and in China and Korea.

In Naju, Korea, it was reported that Mother Mary has been giving messages and signs of love such as tears, fragrance, Eucharistic miracles and spiritual and physical healings for the past 15 years (since the mid 1980's to this millennium) in a synthesized manner.



The most famous visionary in Naju is Julia Kim. There are also numerous

lay and religious persons who wrote testimonies (including Singaporeans) on the various miracles and these were compiled into a book called "Testimonies on the blessings from the Blessed Mother of Naju." (Find out more here: <http://www.marys-touch.com>)

One of the prominent testimonies is from Bishop Paul Chang Yeol Kim of Cheju Diocese, recorded by Rev. Hong Bin Chang, Dongsan-Dong Catholic Church, Kwangju Archdiocese: On 12 June 1997, Bishop Paul Chang visited Naju to pray quietly there. When he was praying the rosary in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary's statue, a loud sound was heard suddenly. A white Sacred Host descended on the altar before the Blessed Mother's statue. The Bishop called for the Pastor of Naju to preserve the Eucharist well as no such miracle had occurred in this manner. The Pastor placed the Eucharist in the tabernacle. It was later moved to the Archdiocesan office.

Later, the Bishop was invited to speak at a conference on theology hosted by a Protestant organisation. Bishop Paul Chang mentioned that a Protestant clergyman who came to Naju and testified to the happenings there. Surprisingly, many Protestant ministers in the conference heard about Naju and raised more questions. Rev. Hong asked the Bishop why he didn't report the Eucharist miracle he witnessed to the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Bishop's firm answer was: 'The Holy Father already (privately) approves it.'

Today, although only a few major Marian Apparitions (at Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, La Salette, Rue du Bac, Pontmain, Beauraing, Banneux, Knock, Akita) are officially approved by the Vatican, I personally feel that the miraculous events in Naju deserve individual experience and devotion. **S**