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**Submission Date:15/11/2007**

**Binding Date:29/11/2007**



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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

~ NOV 2007 ~

### FROM DAVID'S DESK

\* A word from our chief editor ..... 2

### PARISH HAPPENINGS

\* 44th Parish Anniversary Dinner ..... 3

\* Damien Hall Building Funding Updates ..... 10

\* Alpha Monthly Gathering - Oct 2007 ..... 16

\* BSC Parish Carnival ..... Backpage

### IN RETROSPECT

\* The Principle of Cause & Effect ..... 6

\* Pride ..... 8

**YOUTH SECTION - VIBES ..... 11**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... 15**

### POETIC MOMENTS

\* Wisdom ..... 18

### RELAX LEH

\* Contest ..... 19

**CHINESE SECTION ..... 20**

## 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，尽力担当主基督衲舍己牺牲生命，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)*



## FROM DAVID'S DESK

Years ago, SIA chose to buy the Airbus A380 over the Boeing 747X... it only received its first A380 after a 18-month delay. It then chose the Boeing 787 over the Airbus A350 but recently, delays were announced too for the Boeing 787!

I believe I know how the CEO of Singapore Airlines (SIA) is feeling right now... I have the uncanny gift of making choices that lead to delays too, though on a smaller scale:-)

At the supermarket, the queue I chose is usually plagued with unusual delays, eg. the receipt machine ran out of paper, items couldn't be properly scanned, the cashier ran out of change, etc.



And things often get worse when I decide to change queue - yesterday, I had to helplessly watch my original choice of queue moving smoothly while mine got stalled because the guy in front of me somehow managed to squeeze hundreds of items in his trolley and the scanning took ages...

Well, the wise King Solomon had similar problems too - Life spares not kings and CEOs from uncertainties and vexations. But that doesn't mean we are bound to misery - we just need to take things less seriously and see God's hand in everything.

*"I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God."* (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)

### 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 Woon*

## PARISH HAPPENINGS



### 44th Parish Anniversary Dinner

by Patricia Ang

The highly anticipated 44th Parish Anniversary Dinner of our Blessed Sacrament Church, attended by about 300 parishioners, was celebrated on 22 September 2007. Besides highlighting our 44th anniversary, the dinner was also meant to mark the official opening of our new Fr Damien Centre and Kindergarten, and was at the same time, coinciding with the official kick-off of our Parish Mission by the Redemptorist Fathers, headed by Fr. Bill Heng and Paul Kee.



Everything started off with a Mass celebrated by Mgr Eugene Vaz. Some of the Redemptorist priests were concelebrating too, as well as Father Charles Sim who was there to officially open a counseling room in the building, meant to cater for the needs of his family life ministry. Last but not least there were our dear Sacred Heart fathers: Fr Renckens, Fr Fabian, Fr Suyono, Fr Remi and our Parish Priest Fr Anthony.

The buildings were officially opened by a blessing in which all the priests present took an active part. The new building complex took more than 18 months to complete and consists of a bookshop, a St Vincent de Paul Room, an Adoration Room, a library and 12 meeting rooms on the 3rd and 4th floors, an Attic which is exclusively meant as a meeting-place for the Youth, the Family Counseling Room, the classrooms of the kindergarten, canteen, kitchen area, a large basement, and a big Hall (with a capacity of at least 300) where various functions can be held .

It was in this Hall that the dinner took place. Boy were we all in for an entertaining night! Gerard Pereira, the Master of ceremony for the evening, had us in stitches of laughter. He mingled with the crowd, and performed several entertainment acts which included imitations of Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson. He even had some of the fathers singing solos and he cajoled and teased his audience into all kinds of games and cracked our heads in a quiz about the history of Fr Damien Centre.

The parishioners were also entertained by the dances and skits of various church-groups, such as the Mandarin-speaking, the Filipinas and the Youth. The last skit showed us some members of the Neighborhood Groups, going from door to door and inviting parishioners to join the CNG, at the same time trying to disseminate information about the start of our Parish Mission in the second week of October.

At the closing, Fr Anthony addressed the parishioners expressing his hope that the upcoming parish-mission may mark a truly new

beginning so that our parish may grow into a community which is “fully alive”.

*“It is really nice to see parishioners from all walks of life attending the dinner. It was great fun and good bonding in this relaxed atmosphere,”* said Mary Kurian.

*“It was a different concept; instead of the usual singing and band playing, we were entertained and did enjoy ourselves”*, said Anne Sent Doux. **S**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Adoration Room

Our Adoration is now opened daily from 9.00am to 11.00pm for silent prayer and adoration. However, those groups who were already allowed to use the Adoration Room during the time of Fr Renckens can continue this practice in the future. The groups are:

- Meditation Group on Monday from 8.00pm to 9.00pm
- Divine Mercy Prayer Group on Friday from 8.00pm to 9.00pm
- Intercessory in English on First Thursday from 11.00am to 12.00noon
- Intercessory in Malayalam on First Thursday from 6.45 pm to 7.45pm
- Holy Hour by SS.CC. Fathers on Thursday from 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- Malayalam Sodality overnight on fourth Friday from 11.00pm to 6.00am

Other small groups which were not using the Prayer room previously will not be allowed to do so now. When you enter the Adoration Room, be aware of the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Kindly switch off the air-conditioners and lights if you are the last one to leave.



## The Principle of Cause & Effect

by Thomas Ng

Karma, the Sanskrit Indian word is the accumulated sum of one's good and bad deeds. It touches on the universal law or principle of cause and effect. Besides Hinduism, Taoism and Buddhism, there are also sayings and teachings on this principle in our Bible.

In the Old Testament, the original sin from Adam and Eve was the first effect resulting from a wrong cause. However, we learn from the Bible that God would punish severely but would also forgive compassionately. The sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah met their own retribution. In chapter 3 of Jonah, the Ninevites repented just in time, and yielded a good effect, blessed by God's forgiveness.

In the Book of Tobit (rejected by many Protestants), the principle of cause and effect was highlighted. The archangel Raphael took pious Tobit and his son, Tobias aside and told them to glorify God and do good. "Those who give alms have their fill of days; those who sin and do evil, bring harm on themselves." (Tobit 12: 9 & 10)

In the New Testament, Jesus said that a healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things (Luke 6:43-45). St Paul in his letter to the Galatians teaches: "Do not deceive yourselves... for you reap whatever you sow." (Gal. 6:7)

Jesus gave a more natural and justified teaching on some ancient sayings that claimed that the sins of parents would bring punishments on their children. In Luke 13:1-3, some people told

Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate killed while they were offering sacrifice to God. Jesus knew their thoughts and answered: "Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No indeed!"

In John 9:1-3, Jesus met a man born blind. "His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." The blind man was later healed by Jesus.

Jesus' teaching on the parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16: 17-31) is another example on the principle of cause and effect. In the last part of chapter 6 of Revelation, we learn that God's judgement extends to all animate existence. Catholic scholars interpret that all creatures have perverted God's intentions for the world order and have prevented the world from finding those things that can make it whole. Thus, the world desires peace, but finds war, it works for prosperity, but finds scarcity; it seeks life, but finds only death.

To conclude, the Bible does touch on the principle of cause and effect, and on a more universal level. Today, we are destroying the home God created for us; the United Nations, backed by 2500 scientists from 130 countries, issued a report on 2 February 2007 which concluded that global warming is the effect of human activities. We can and must do something about it... **S**

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### *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 **2nd Nov 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!

**First  
Friday**

**2  
Nov**



# PRIDE

by Patricia Ang

*"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."*(Proverbs 16:18)

Pride is an inordinate love of one's own excellence, either of body or mind or the unlawful pleasure we derive from thinking we have no superiors. Pride, being swollen egoism, erects the human soul into a separate centre of origin apart from God, exaggerates its own importance and becomes a world in and for itself.



Pride manifests itself in many forms:

- Atheism: We deny dependence on God, our Creator.
- Intellectual vanity: We are un-teachable because we think we know all there is to know.
- Superficiality: We judge people by their status, clothes and their bank accounts.
- Snobbery: We look down on "inferiors".
- Presumptuousness: We are inclined to seek honors and positions quite beyond our capacity.



How many of us have been trying to lead our lives without God? to be independent? How many times in our lives have our actions prevented us from drawing closer to God? It is astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves. People who do things that are really wrong are usually repentant, and willing to make amends and change their ways. Proud people on the other hand, simply don't think they have done anything wrong and therefore have no need for God, let alone His

love and forgiveness. When people really see themselves as the Lord sees them, it is not the terribly offensive sins of the flesh that shock them, but the awful nature of the pride of their own hearts opposing Jesus Christ. One thing God consistently requires of us is to be one in the spirit with Christ. All that is required is to live a life of absolute dependence on Jesus. God can change our lives around only if we empty ourselves to Him; we must create a vacuum in our souls to make room for grace.

How then do we defeat pride, one of the 7 deadly sins? The trick is to forget about pride and to concentrate on living humbly. Humility is what Jesus demonstrated with His teachings, His attitude, His very life. When our Lord washed his disciples' feet, He taught and is still teaching us that the greatest in the Kingdom is the one who is the least. When we serve others by humbling ourselves to simple tasks like cleaning the church and helping a disabled person, we conquer pride.

Be thankful with who we are. "And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17). Giving thanks to God or being thankful helps us to be humble because it reminds us that God has given us all that we have.

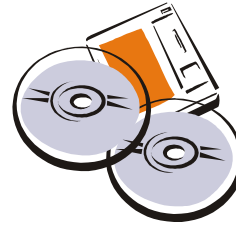
*Lord you humbled yourself on the cross to die for our sins. May we remove pride in our lives and lead a humble life and draw closer to you.*

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."* (1 Peter 5:5) **S**

*"The more pride one had, the more one disliked pride in others. Pride leads to every other vice : it is the complete anti-God state of mind."*

- C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) Writer

## Youth Section Vibes (see hardcopy)



### CD-ROM

You can now purchase photos on a CD-ROM on the following recent events held at BSC:

- a. Mass followed by official opening of Fr. Damien Hall by Msgr. Eugene Vaz
- b. Childrens' Mass Saturday 27 Sept 2007
- c. Procession in honour of Our Lady on Saturday 13th Oct 2007
- d. Mission Exhibition at Fr. Damien Hall, Sunday 14th Oct 2007

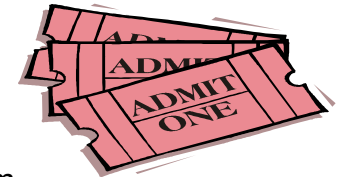
Pictures are in high resolution, can be viewed on a PC and ready for both home and commercial printing. Each CD-ROM costs \$5. Kindly contact Ian at Tel: 6463 8961 for orders.

### Parish Family Day (organised by Family Life Ministry)

Date: 17 November 2007

Time: 4 - 9pm

Cost: \$5 per person (age 6 and above)



Tickets are available at the Church Office from October 14th onwards. Join us at the New Damien Hall for some fun, family games and dinner. The programme of the day begins with tea/coffee at 4pm. Several special games designed for families or individual groups of 3 or 4 members to participate will follow after tea. Dinner at 7:15pm.

### COOKING COURSE AT FATHER DAMIEN CENTRE

Cecilia Shin will conduct a cooking course commencing on 28 December 2007. She will teach you to cook organic food too with local ingredients. Please contact her at 96303951 for more information.





## HAPPENINGS

### ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING - OCTOBER

by Richard Lowe

For the October Monthly Gathering, the Post Alpha Groups decided to screen a movie for the benefit of all parishioners. The made-for-TV movie was entitled "*Mary, the mother of Jesus*". It was shown in conjunction with the Block Rosary's annual celebration with candle-light procession in honour of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

To do their bit to raise funds for the new Fr. Damien Building, the Alphians sold some food to the parishioners who stayed back after the candle-light procession to watch the movie. We were very pleasantly surprised with the response from the parishioners. Around 120 parishioners watched the show.

To bring the joy and fun of going to the cinema in days gone by, we popped some corn to sell to the 'cinema goers'. We even packed them in the old takeaway paper bags! Although they did not sell like hot cakes, we managed to sell more than 20 packets. As for the snacks and food put on sale, it was a different story. Within just a few minutes, the food disappeared from the tables, faster than David Copperfield could manage to make the express train disappear into thin air!

From feedback received from those who attended the show, many of them enjoyed the show very much. They could see how the relationship between Jesus and Mary was developing slowly and steadily as the story unfolded on screen. There was no focus on the Passion or any subplot on how the disciples related to Jesus except for a brief glimpse of John's relationship with Jesus and Mary. Even Joseph was featured prominently as a man of justice who loved Mary and Jesus totally during the 90-minute show. I, personally, like the poignant scene where Jesus and Mary are present as Joseph is bidding them farewell as he returns to his Creator in Heaven.

At the end of the evening, we saw many parishioners going home with happy faces despite having to sit among the many display panel boards put up by many parishes and religious congregations in the hall for the Mission Sunday Exhibition.

The Post Alpha Groups would like to express their grateful thanks to all those who turned up to watch the movie and contributed to the Damien Hall Building Fund by clearing up all the food put up for sale. We raised \$380 that evening. A big thank-you also goes to all those who helped prepare and sell the food. Not forgetting the canteen co-ordinators who helped with the sale of the hot and cold drinks. How about having another similar event early next year? Of course, there's no need for any procession. **S**

### ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING - NOVEMBER

Day/Date: Sat 10th November 2007

Time: 7.15 pm

Place: Damien Hall

HIGHLIGHT: VIDEO TALK: "THE EUCHARIST AS A SACRIFICE"  
By: Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL.

Kindly bring some food to share. Do bring your friends and relations to join us.

### CLASSIFIEDS

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



Looking for a working single Christian lady age above 35 (Singaporean or PR) to share apartment. Location: Junction of Alexandra Road and Jalan Bukit Merah. Contact Angeline at 8154 7029.



**POETIC  
MOMENTS**

## Wisdom

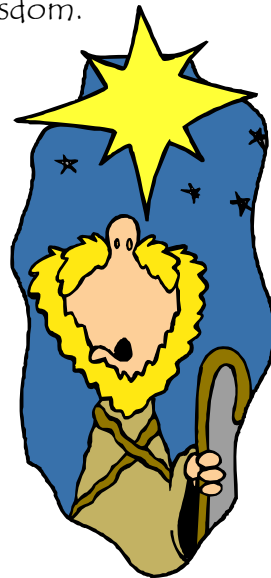
People admire intelligence  
It gets us a head-start in life;  
It gets us good jobs and high salary on us shower  
It gets us status and power;  
But intelligence is not wisdom!

Wisdom is doing the loving thing when in doubt,  
It is being righteous, not self-righteous;  
It is being considerate rather than rude,  
It prefers to be kind rather than being vengeful;  
Wisdom is mastering evil with good.

Being intelligent is inadequate without wisdom  
Wisdom is the moral guide to self-control;  
Pandering to self leads to pride and self-indulgence;  
Self knowledge, self control is the key to wisdom.

Wisdom comes from GOD  
In HIM let us confide;  
Ask HIM for wisdom to guide  
All that we do.  
Wisdom is the key to living  
In harmony and social well-being.

~ Shirley Lau ~



Congratulations to Valerie Cioe, Tammy Chua & Nadya Neo! You are our winners for last month's Spotlight contest!

## Relax Leh!

To win exciting prizes, **copy** into the blank box the picture below of the animals marching into the ark and **colour** your picture. Send in your entries by 11 Nov 07.

*(For children 12 years & below; not for Spotlight members & family members)*

**(see hardcopy)**

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

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