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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

~ OCT 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

After serving in BSC for about 20 years (am I that old now??), I've come to a conclusion: at any point in time, less than 10% (a generous estimate!) of the parish is active.

Over the years, we've gathered countless ideas on how to set our parish spiritually aflame but the situation remained the same. The problem: we have many thinkers but few "implementors".

As I started to pen down a recruitment ad for Spotlight, it dawned on me that I would probably get no response. Perhaps all these years, we have been putting the cart before the horse...

Let me try something radical: instead of us asking for help in a particular area, why don't you tell us what you would love to do, week after week, month after month, year after year, 20 years after 20 years and we will fit your passion into a ministry?

For example, if you love cooking, you could bring the culinary standard of our breakfast offerings to a level where no one could resist the thought of eating at Damien Hall after Mass and in the process, build community! If you love making YouTube movies, you could make interesting films about our priests, our activities and our faith. Or if you love mahjong, you could start an annual mahjong tournament to raise funds for the poor. Or if you love MMORPG, we could start guilds to inculcate a sense of belonging in our youths.



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.

So you see, it doesn't matter what you love to do because anything could be channelled to the service of God! Email me NOW your passion to spotlight@bsc.org.sg or drop me a note at the priest house!



POETIC MOMENTS

Salvation

Freely, GOD gives us HIS GRACE Of SALVATION
Through Christ's REDEMPTION;
Completely, JESUS gives us HIS love.
Willingly, in obedience to HIS Father's will,
JESUS was crucified for our sins;
Salvation is never on our own merit, so we cannot boast;
Lovingly, CHRIST imparts to us HIS Righteousness
So, through Him, we become GOD's adopted children.

CHRIST is the VINE
We are the branches;
HIS HOLY SPIRIT indwelling us
Enables us to bear fruit,
Of love for the triune GOD
And works of loving compassion for others.

As Almighty GOD forgives us our sins
So we should forgive all who sin against us;
The power of the HOLY SPIRIT
Works in our inner soul, a gradual transformation,
To CHRIST-like qualities of Humility, Compassion
Love, Joy and Peace.

Do not blaspheme against THE HOLY SPIRIT
THE GOD within our souls,
Teaching us TRUTH, from GOD's perspective;
Do not defile the body, His Church
For it is a sad day for Christians
When THE HOLY SPIRIT departs,
When our HOLY Counsellor is gone,
And we face the wrath of Almighty God alone!

O CHRISTIAN, build your house on rock
The mighty ROCK of CHRIST;
The foundation will not shake in any crisis,
For our Almighty triune GOD
Is the Sovereign LORD in charge;
And HE will work all things for the good
Of those who love and worship HIM.

~ Shirley Lau ~



INSPIRATION

The Angelic Salutation

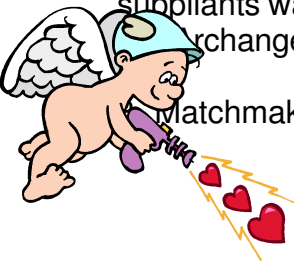
by Tricia Lo

Angel gazing has a peaceful and calming effect on me. I have somewhat turned my work-station into what I call my little 'Angelorium' decorating it with beautiful angel figurines, postcards and angel screen-savers. Angels are servants of God and some of the roles they play are :

1. Guardian Angels: "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (Psalm 91:11).

Each one of us has a guardian angel whom God has given us since birth. They are assigned to protect us and to guide us to God but only if we allow it.

2. Answers to Prayer: "At that very time, the prayer of these two suppliants was heard in the glorious presence of Almighty God. (Archangel) Raphael was sent to heal them both." (Tobit 3:16)



Matchmakers: "... he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son..." (Genesis 24:7)

Abraham's chief servant was led by God's angel directly to Rebekah who consented to her marriage with Isaac.

4. Escorts: "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven." (Luke 16:22)

5. Messengers: The most celebrated assignment of God's angels was that of the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

God through Archangel Gabriel created the first part of the Angelic Salutation which reflects Mary's greatness and grace. St. Elizabeth, the mother of John (the Baptist), made up the second part. The Church, at the First Council of Ephesus, held in 431, gave Mary the title "Mother of God" and the finale, which is a prayer of petition, was included in the Catechism of the Council of Trent of 1566. The word Rosary translates to 'Crown of Roses' and each time we say a Hail Mary, we are giving her a beautiful rose and each complete Rosary (five decades) makes her a crown of roses...



I had a pleasant surprise on one Monday when I accidentally clicked into a website and up popped a beautiful white rose. I mentally thanked St. Therese of Lisieux for the rose though puzzled as I didn't pray to her. On Saturday after the Sunset Mass I somehow had the urge to take another route home. Round the corner I came across a pot with a beautiful white rose.

I pondered on these encounters with roses on my way to work. It was then that I recalled that I had wanted to write an article on the Angelic Salutation and had actually asked the Blessed Mother for her special blessing to do so. I did start on the article but did not finish it. I realized that St. Therese was sent by our Lady to remind me about it. As if to confirm that my discernment was correct, a lady sat right in front of me with a hair clip with two beautiful white roses!

This work is lovingly dedicated to the Blessed Mother, the Queen of Angels and Saints for her special blessing to write this article and for sending St. Therese. Special thanks also to my guardian angel and all the heavenly angels of God. Through the Angelic Salutation we have our Jesus, our salvation! **S**



St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

by Thomas Ng

On a breezy afternoon in July, I passed by the Church of Sts Peter & Paul. After taking a closer look at the new statue of St Paul, I said a short prayer to him. On the long MRT journey back to my new Marsiling home, I had some moment to reflect on St Paul and his great missionary works. It seemed that he was inspiring me to complete my article on his First Letter to the Corinthians...

This letter is a practical epistle dealing with the problems the Church of Corinth had to face. Corinth was a cosmopolitan city and capital of the Roman province of Achaia. It was a famous trading centre between Europe and Asia, but well-known for its cults and immorality. Paul preached there during AD49, and left about 2 years later. The faithful were mostly Gentiles with some Jews. The problems in the community included married life and virginity, foods sacrificed to idols, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection of the dead.

Paul wrote to them to cease disunity, particularly having the tendency towards egoism and aim for spiritual independence. He reminded them that it was wrong to center on individuals and their names. For Jesus Christ should be the only person they ought to follow and love (1 Cor. 1).

For those who eagerly sought spectacular displays of charismatic gifts, especially speaking in tongues, Paul stipulated that: The one who proclaims God's message helps the whole church... For the person who proclaims God's message is of greater value than the one who speaks in strange tongues (1 Cor. 14:4-5)."

There was a Corinthian Christian who lived sinfully with his stepmother (1 Cor. 5:1-2). Paul wrote to them that he should be excommunicated (1 Cor. 5:5). In chapter 7, Paul advised on marriage, celibacy and divorce, and set a general rule for all to follow.

Regarding food sacrificed to idols, Paul pointed out the freedom and right conscience to eat. He advised that: "We will not improve our relation with God if we eat, or do not eat. However, we should not let our freedom of action make those who are weak in faith to fall into sin." (1 Cor. 8: 8-9)

Some Corinthians were disrespectful and irresponsible during the celebration of the Eucharist. Paul rebuked them: "When we drink from the cup, we are sharing in the blood of Christ... when we eat the bread, we are sharing in the body of Christ. For there is the one loaf of bread, all of us, though many, are one body, for we all share the same loaf." (1 Cor. 10: 16-17)

As the Corinthians were living among others with cults and pagan beliefs, their hope of the resurrection of the dead was sceptic. In chapter 15, Paul stipulated that: "If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost. Christ is the sign of our own resurrection." He then affirmed that Christ's resurrection, the basis of the Christian faith, is the assurance of a believer's resurrection.

Actually, Paul composed this letter at Ephesus around AD54 or 55, answering the queries addressed to him. Catholic scholars say that he really showed his love and concern for the church he established in Corinth. **S**

"No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good."
C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) Writer



Walk the Talk

by Patricia Ang

How do we lead a Christian Life? Do we behave as Christians in our workplace, with our family and friends, in fellowship with our fellow church members in the various ministries? Do we apply what we read in the Bible in our daily lives? This year, I have heard and personally come across several incidents of people of the same religion that hardly walk the talk yet they say they are devoted Christians.



On surface, these are very religious people. They attend Mass and they are active in the various church ministries. However, the way they handle matters in their daily lives, the way they behave and talk, makes one wonder whether they do it for fame and glory. We tend to lose respect and trust in these people who behave in such manner. It can be also quite discouraging as these people are either our colleagues or our friends. One of my friends told me that we can't tell them how to lead their lives as they've made a choice in leading their lives. The only thing we can do is just to pray for them so that our Lord may open their eyes to the lives they are leading, open their hearts and ears to what our Lord has to say to them.

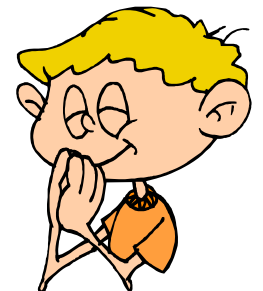
If we as fellow brothers and sisters can't walk the talk, how then can we grow in unity in the respective ministries to serve the Lord? Some of us engage in idle talk, some of us subject ourselves to scandals and groundless rumors etc. As a result this has created much tension and

misunderstanding in the parish.

We are Christ's ambassadors and God is using us to speak to one another. It is important that Christians act and speak in order to glorify the Lord. When you give your word, keep it. If you make a commitment, honour it. If you take on an obligation, fulfill it. Our honesty and reliability should be so evident that we can be trusted for any contract we make. What better testimony could be said of a believer than this: "He gave this word, that's good enough for me." And if non-Christians can trust us in worldly matters, they are more likely to believe us when we speak about the Gospel.

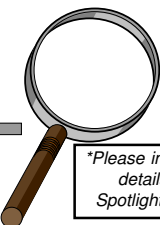
Have you encountered situations when our good intentions are being misunderstood? There are times we just feel it's not worth the effort, but the Bible tells us to persevere: "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to another without grumbling. Each one of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:8-10)

We are God's children and we ought to pray as Christ did. Praying for one another is essential, for praying and ministry brings healing, love, sharing, growth, unity and encouragement. We pray for our repentance, for ourselves to grow to be more like Christ each day. We pray to receive



God's mercy, his healing touch and forgiveness as we forgive those who have hurt us intentionally or unintentionally with their words and deeds. Pray for each other as we grow in fellowship and in maturity as we seek his eternal kingdom.

Brothers and Sisters, let's walk the talk. Let's apply what we've learnt in our lives. Sometimes it takes a third party to see what we are doing in our lives, yet it also takes courage to speak up. So if we do encounter such people who, out of good intentions, tell us what we are doing wrong in our lives, let us listen with humility and try to repent. Let us learn and grow together and by all our actions, may we glorify His Name!



CLASSIFIEDS

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

Tutor willing to offer tuition in Primary Chinese and English in Tanglin Halt area. Contact Evelyn at **9693 0690**.

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 **3rd Oct 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!



HAPPENINGS

Volunteers needed

Apex Day Care Centre

Apex Day Care Centre is looking for committed volunteers to serve a group of elderly who need companionship and gentle care to make their stay at the Centre an enjoyable and productive one. Apex Day Care Centre is located at the void deck of Blk 119 Bukit Merah View. It is managed by Sr. Marjorie, a Catholic nun. The day care residents converse in Teochew, Hokkien, Cantonese and English.

Sister Marjorie is looking for volunteers to help her initiate the following programmes on weekdays (Monday to Friday) from 10.30am-1pm or 2-4pm :

1. Befriender: Requires patience, kindness and compassion
2. Physiotherapy: Requires strength
3. Music therapy: Requires an ability to sing or play a musical instrument
4. Art therapy: Requires knowledge of art and craft

Breakfast for the Needy

Do you have 2 or 3 hours to spare on Saturday mornings? If so, would you like to live out Christ's exhortation that we care for our less fortunate brothers and sisters? Our parish will be running a free canteen every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday of the month to provide breakfast for the needy from 8-10am.

We hope to form 2-3 teams and therefore volunteers will need to help every other week or once in three weeks. Volunteers will help to set up the canteen, serve breakfast and clean up the canteen.

If you are keen on volunteering your time for the above programmes, please leave your name and contact number with the secretariat or email ralowe@singnet.com.sg



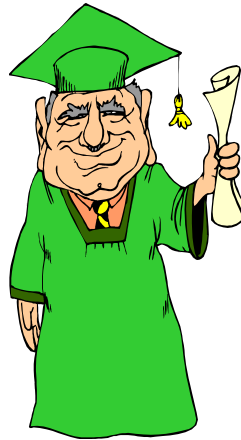
HAPPENINGS

PLATINUM ALPHA (4-13 Aug 2008)

by Elsie Tan

Background of the Group

This group of senior citizens comprises of about 25 members. They come together every Wednesday to attend the 8.30 am Mass and then meet in the canteen to have Fellowship and Bible Sharing. They usually end their gathering around 12 noon.



Their Spiritual Director is Fr. Suyono. And he felt that it would be a good idea to have them attend a more structured programme rather than using materials that they fancied in an ad hoc manner. Thus Platinum Alpha was kicked off on Wed 4th June 2008 at St. James Rooms at Damien Centre (level 3) from 10 am to 2.30 pm. It ended on Wed 13th Aug 2008 with an air of caring and friendship, and enjoying a simple lunch together.

The Express Version of Alpha for Seniors on DVD was used. The seniors enjoyed these talks as it was tailored specially for those with short attention span. Although 25 signed up, only 21 of them attended the course. The average attendance for each session is about 16 members.

Fr. Suyono was quite pleased with the outcome of this course. He found that they were more relaxed and shared quite freely with the group. They interacted with each other cordially and seemed more cheerful. He also noticed that they paid more attention to dressing up for these sessions.

Although we were quite apprehensive about the "Weekend", somehow it turned out well. Thanks to Bertrand Leong, who provided the music and singing, and Victor Leong for guiding us through the praying-over sessions. The seniors were very open to the Holy Spirit and you could see that a few of them experienced the touch and power of the Holy Spirit. At the lunch breaks, we could sense the excitement and joy of these Platinum Alphians. Here are some testimonials:

"I felt very happy each time I came for the course. I made quite a few friends. All of them were really friendly. After the praying over, I became more calm and peaceful." - Diana Oh

"Every Wednesday I felt excited because I could meet my friends at the Alpha Course. When they prayed over me, I felt healed of my pains. I had a bit of warm feeling." - Ann Seah

"I feel that I have learned a lot from the talks by Nicky Gumble. I am glad that I had the wonderful opportunity to attend this express course with the other senior citizens. The helpers were all friendly and dedicated." - Sr. Angeline **S**

POST ALPHA GROUPS OCTOBER GATHERING

OCTOBER - MONTH OF MOTHER MARY

Day/Date: Saturday 11th October 2008

Time: 7.15 pm

Place: DAMIEN HALL

Highlight: Talk on Mother Mary

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL.

Please bring some food to share. ALL ARE WELCOME !



HAPPENINGS

The Great Adventure

Alpha and Cafe Teams have joined forces to bring something fantastic for you... Over 60 people signed up within the first week of launch! What are they going for?



Come 9th October till 4th December, there will be a Great Adventure... departure weekly from Damien Hall Thursdays 7.15-9.30 pm. Through these 9 weeks, you will be taken on a time travel through over 4000 years!

It's a trip back in time through the Bible, that best-selling, yet under appreciated book of all time... the love letter from God that is as yet unopened by many He loves. Many Catholics have discovered how God speaks to them so personally through His Word... yet many others simply do not know how to start reading or understanding this wonderful book.

The programme is NOT a standard Bible study. Instead, speaker Jeff Cavins, in a series of 8 video presentations, will drive us through the whole fantastic journey of God's grace from one couple's disobedience, one man's faith, one family's journey and a tribe in exile... kingdoms, intrigues, plots and rescues till another man's complete obedience.

The entire Bible is explained in an entertaining yet easily understood way so that ANYONE will be able to read the whole Good Book themselves with confidence.

Furthermore the BSC team has greatly enhanced the programme with original materials, hilarious acting, food, fun, fellowship and prayer to make it an unforgettable conversion experience that will enable you to love to make His Word a part of your daily life.

Sign up now at the parish office or sms your name, address and contact no. to Betsy (96428158) or Richard (93853381). **S**