



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

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FEB
2023

THE HOMESTEAD

Lent 2023

22 February to 6 April



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During Lent, you should examine your conscience and proclaim the ten commandments:

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honour your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife or husband
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

In summary, the above "Ten Commandments" is to:

Love God above all things and love your neighbour as yourself.





Meditation on February Earthquakes

By: Deacon Alex Kwok

On 6 February, two powerful earthquakes of more than 7.5 magnitude devastated southeast Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll is more than 47,000. As the aphorism goes, *"It never rains but pours"*. On 20 February, the day after the Turkey government announced the end of rescue efforts in all but two hardest hit provinces, another 6.3 magnitude aftershock struck Turkey's southern Hatay province again ...

Why do I invite all of you to meditate on these natural disasters? It is simply because we are genuinely blessed to be living in Hong Kong. We have been enjoying prosperity and security for more than half a century. Yes, there were landslides after torrents of heavy rains, wild fires burning down squatter areas and typhoons sinking ocean liners. And yet, we have managed to rise again stronger after each disaster. As an aphorism goes, *"While in safety, meditate on catastrophes 居安思危"*. All of us need to stay alert and be prepared because we do not know when and what the next disaster will strike just as we do not know in what manners the Lord will come again!

Few disasters are genuinely natural. Human greed and power abuses contribute to an unnecessarily higher death toll because governments turn a blind eye to sub-standard constructions. As of the time of writing, the Turkey authorities have issued more than 100 arrest warrants over collapsed buildings. Let us pray that justice prevails. On the other hand, we stand in awe before earthquakes, tornadoes and volcano eruptions, etc. They remind us of our frailty and insignificance before Mother Nature and her Creator. Of course, there are still people who prefer scientific explanations to God's will which is in fact very difficult to defend. We will be getting into murky waters trying to explain why God allows so many innocent people to die in these disasters. Passing the buck to natural sciences and human corruption is easier to get off the hook, but our heavenly Father smiles in their faces by keeping alive a few chosen ones after the 72-hour *"golden window"* for rescue. Two women were pulled out of rubbles alive after more than 210 hours! Science and technology have to shy away from explaining God's mercy and miracles!

Yes, the cloud of Ukraine war is still hovering over us for more than one year but compassion and solidarity brilliantly shine forth in this Turkey cum Syria disaster. Despite ideological and religious disagreements, international donations, rescue and relief efforts pour in and race against time to help local authorities to save the victims. Our parish too managed to collect more than two hundred and twenty thousand Hong Kong dollars (HK\$220,000) in 8 masses on just one Sunday! Who can say humanity is irredeemable, or that we are unable to love our enemies (**Matthew 5:44**)?

A paradoxical incident came to light among the international relief efforts. Pakistan sent the very same relief materials which Turkey had sent her during devastating floods in 2022! It would cost Pakistan an international embarrassment but for Turkey, those returned materials are what she is badly in need at the moment. How down to earth the Sermon on the Mount is! Be merciful and generous and *"do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow"* (**Matthew 5:42**) seems to go against the flow. However, the incident mentioned above shows clearly that our almsgivings will be more than a hundredfold valuable when we need them back! Jesus' teaching rings true when he says, *"Store up treasures in heaven"* (**Matthew 6:20**). But how?

Brethren! Is it too obvious that you do not see? We are building the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. So we do not need to fly to the moon to store up treasures! Moreover, the King says, *"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"* (**Matthew 25:40**). Like Turkey's helping Pakistan in 2022, probably Turkey never intended to store up relief she happens to need in 2023. Who knows, perhaps a cup of water you give today may one day come back to quench your burning thirst.

Brethren! It is Lent now. It is a season of purification. Let us stand in awe before the Lord to implore His mercy. Let us be generous in communion with the needy through fasting and almsgiving. Amen.

God bless!



Have a Blessed Lenten Journey!

By: Sr. Victoria Victorino, PDDM

There is one journey which lasts a lifetime but is greatly highlighted during the liturgical season of Lent: The journey of conversion.

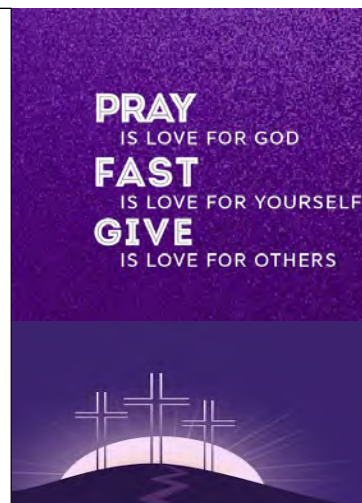
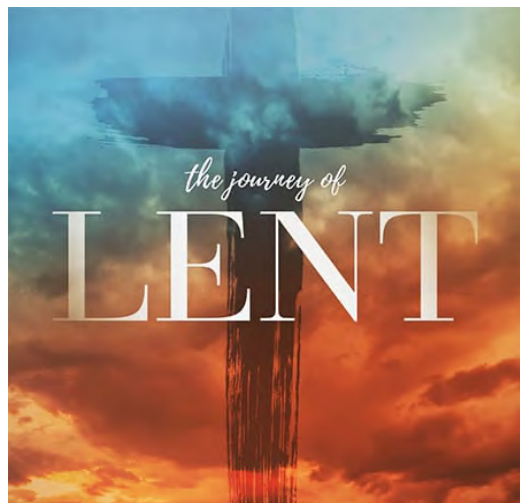
In the Old Testament context, conversion always meant a 'turning back' (from the Hebrew word *shub* meaning 'change course, turn back'). This is not difficult to understand: Someone realizes that he or she is following a wrong direction and is treading a path that does not lead to the destination one has in mind, hence he or she "changes course" – starts to turn back and follow a different path. Changing customs and changing behaviours are implied here as we read in the book of the Prophets. The Book of Jonah is one excellent example.

In the time of Jesus, he began his preaching with "repent and believe" (see **Mark 1:15**). These are the same words we hear at the beginning of

the Lenten Season, specifically on Ash Wednesday. The Greek word *metanoia* is used here, referring to the 'change of one's way of life, change in one's heart.' Fr. Cantalamessa, the Preacher of the Papal Household, explains the deeper meaning of this: *"Conversion is a profound change in the way we conceive our relationships with God. It requires passing from the idea of a God that asks, that orders, that threatens, to the idea of a God that comes with full hands to give us everything. It is the conversion from the 'law' to the 'grace' that was so dear to St. Paul."*

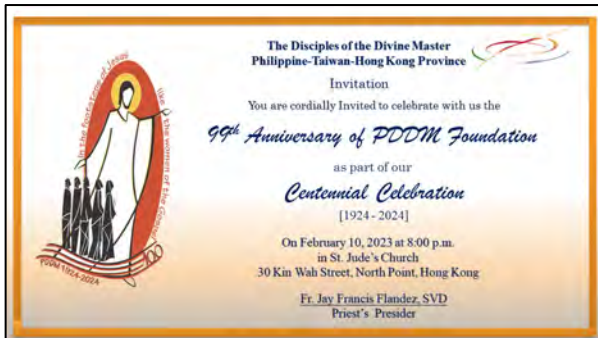
Isn't it true that even after so many years of being "Christians" we still struggle in believing that God loves us and wants to give us everything? We prefer to cling on to the image of God we had in childhood: a God who is hard to please and who easily gets 'angry,' who goes around to watch and 'police' us, as it were. Starting this season of Lent, would we be willing to 'be truly **converted and believe** that our God is kind and merciful, slow to anger, rich in compassion (see Psalm 103 and Psalm 145)? Are we willing to change our image of God, hence also change our relationship with Him? We can be more trusting of Him, and more ready to allow Him to direct our lives.

May I invite you to join me this Lent in this 'spiritual work-out': let us make time to sit down quietly each day, wrap ourselves in gratefulness, remember the love and friendship that God continues to offer us unconditionally. And may this spiritual exercise empower us to share God's love and friendship to all, especially to our most needy sisters and brothers. May God bless our deepest desire to be truly converted and be saved. Amen.



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Living Rosary Group of OLMC



We participated in the 99th Anniversary of PDDM Foundation on 10 February in the Eucharistic Celebration held at St. Jude's Church in North Point at 8 in the evening. The members of The Living Rosary Group were invited to join and serve as readers. The most exciting moment was the reunion with our Sr. Regina Lito, PDDM, who relocated to St. Jude's Parish from OLMC in 2021. It was a pleasure to have Fr. Jay Flandez, SVD as presider of the Mass. The hymns and songs chosen were so touching led by the angelic voices of the choir. We now look forward to the 100th Anniversary of PDDM Foundation next year in 2024. May God bless the PDDM sisters and their mission in behalf of God's people.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Oh ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfortess of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favours, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues so that I may one day share your company and bless you in eternity. Amen.



Making Hearts for Valentine's Day

By: Teachers Levinna, Benedicta, Regina - Class 1b

To celebrate Valentine's Day, which is celebrated on 14 February, students from the Sunday School Class 1B learned the meanings of unconditional love as a Catholic. When discussing Valentine's Day, we tend to express our affection and share the love we feel only with certain people such as our partners, family, and friends. In **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**, St. Paul taught us about the richer meaning of love - it is not just a mere feeling, it is about relating to others. Jesus also taught us to love, not only the people we like but our enemy and people who did bad things to us (**Matthew 5:43-48**). *'But teacher... I do not like my enemy. They are mean.'* *'Teacher, that is too hard. I do not want to talk to my enemy.'* Those were the kids' immediate reactions to this teaching. By the end of the class, the kids agree that we need to love everyone without exception – the elders, people with disabilities, the sick, the homeless, and even the people we do not like, just like what Jesus taught us to do.

To create a reminder for all of us, the students created a heart bouquet from origami paper to be shared with their loved ones. They were so excited to pick the origami paper of their or their parent's/ siblings' favourite colours. And they could not stop making more and more hearts to fill in the bouquet. And as a reminder for all of us, on the bouquet, we also put the meaning of love: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud... Love never fails'* (**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**). Whenever you are reading this - Happy Valentine's Day! Since everyday is a day of love with Jesus.



♥ We love You Jesus ♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥





Dark Night of the Soul!

By: Marichie Biscocho

14 years have passed since I was relocated here in Hong Kong. This entailed greatest turning points in my life from: Nothing to Everything. And also a journey of finding my purpose. Joining Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church ("OLMC") choir 4 years ago played an important part in this journey.

My church choir service and cantoring as psalmist started since at the age of six. It became my anchor of spiritual growth journey despite the roller coaster ride of life. In my earlier years, everyday is a survival! Every penny counts. This led me to dream big. At first, I embraced the darkness of living paycheck by paycheck, just enough to pay the bills. Like everybody else, I also fell in love. My first love: my world became him! But it became dark - toxic and abusive. Until I became immune to such darkness, losing myself everyday but still stayed in the relationship due to my traditional beliefs.

Not until I was relocated in Hong Kong. It changed everything. I had a great offer in a Corporate job. But in return, I have to work like slave. I worked 24/7, restless days! I have no other life. I do not have time for other things. Due to the big responsibility as the breadwinner, I have to embrace such darkness. And this all paid off! I was able to help my family to have better quality of life.

In 2014, I lost my 11 years relationship. Despite the deepest hurt, I let it go and I felt blessed with God's light. God sent a new friend who influenced me into fitness. I unleashed my athletic self. I became unstoppable and so empowered. I had the right balance of work and life. I found the light! And I started sharing the inspiration with others.

Not until 2019 when I lost my 11 years corporate job. I was shattered. My dark night of the soul: like losing all the meaning of life. I could not find a job for a year. I became broke and I almost left Hong Kong. I sought for answers. My beliefs were shaken.



Then God sent a new friend who introduced me to my home church. I finally joined OLMC choir and got training to sing the Psalm. Thus began my greatest spiritual and emotional healing and transformation! We became not just friends but family in the community. God had given me a fresh start, leading me to 'who and where I want to be.'

I finally found my purpose: To transmute every darkness into light! To inspire and be inspired! To heal and be healed. "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)



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Liturgical Bible Study

LBS Corner: "Preserve & Illuminate"

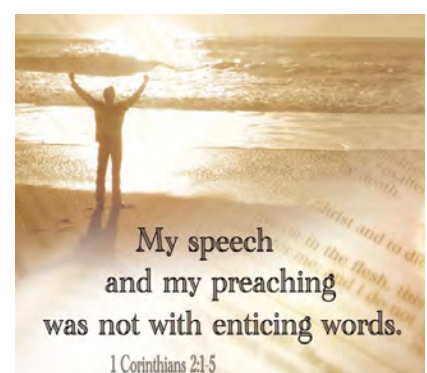
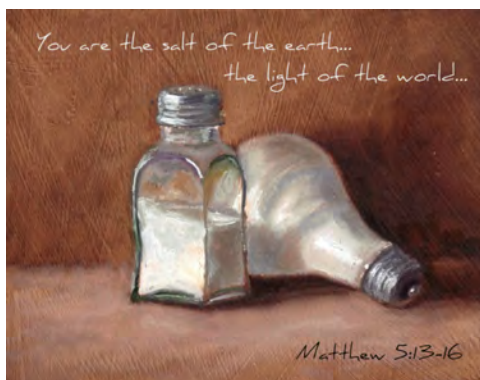
[Reference liturgical readings: Gospel **Matthew 5:13-16**; 1st reading **Isaiah 58:7-10**; 2nd reading **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**.]

Our Lord is pointing out our responsibility on the calling upon His disciples in the gospel reading, where Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world" (**Mt 5:13-14**). Addressing this same message to all of us, we have been called by God to bring light in the darkness with His beautiful and holy name through our life, note that it is not optional as Jesus said we ARE salt of the earth and light of the world.

How are we going to fulfill this mission as salt influences the taste of the food we are receiving? Our Lord guides us to influence others to offer or provide something different that will make the life of others fulfilling or satisfying as we bring the love of God to the hearts of our brothers and sisters and let them experience God's grace and blessings through us.

The purpose of salt and light is to preserve and illuminate, and this is what is being asked by God to preserve the mission of Jesus up to this moment as we are called to continue His mission of bringing the presence of God and spread the good news of salvation to others and not just keeping it to ourselves by just *putting under a bushel basket, but, instead it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house* (**Mt 5:15**). The characteristic of the salt is to enhance flavor, and as a preservative. To 'be salt' means to deliberately let the other people experience the unconditional love of Christ through our good deeds and care. On the other hand, to "be a light" is providing awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the enormous love that God is giving us so others may also share the same light that illuminates all of us.

The 1st reading demonstrates this act of illuminating others when you *share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.* (**Is 58:7**). Furthermore, in fulfilling and in preserving and illuminating the mission, the 2nd reading tells us that our faith is not just words, but the faith that was given us should be seen in our actions. St. Paul stressed this in his 1st letter to the Corinthians that *his message and proclamation were not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power,* (**1 Cor 2:4**). It is not enough just to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. Our Lord is moving us to influence their life through our actions in the moments of their needs, pains and sufferings we will be there to offer something different and through our faith in action they will see and experience the goodness of our Lord. And through us they could see the wonderful light we bring to their life and hopefully they will glorify God because in the last part of the gospel reading this is the mission we have to fulfill. *Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.* (**Mt 5:16**)



Recruitment Activities

By: Margaret Lo

Our Lady of Mercy Praesidium

Dear Brothers and Sisters of OLMC,

We would like to show our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Thomas Law and the legionaries from other parishes for their support in making our recruitment events from 4 to 5 February and from 11 to 12 a great success!



Recruitment of legionaries has always been a big challenge! No matter how hard we tried, we never know what we would get in return. Nevertheless, *"What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived— God has prepared these things for those who love him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9) This is so true! We all are the people whom God loves! 😊

The purpose of the recruitment events was to promote Legion of Mary and to attract more new members. Surprisingly, it had indeed become a precious gift from God for us to reflect bravely and sincerely on why we continued to be a legionary regardless of all the hard times and temptations in life. It had also reminded us that being a legionary was a call from God and we had accepted this unique grace since the day we became a legionary. Moreover, we felt so blessed to have this opportunity to reach out and share our joy in our Legionary life with all of you, our fellow brothers and sisters of the parish.

In the last two weeks, did you receive the "Little Angel of Joy" and "Five Loaves and Two Fish" charms from us?

- **Little Angel of Joy** - Represents the love, joy and peace from God we experienced in our legionary life.
- **Five loaves and two fish** - Represents our work done every week.



Please do not underestimate how small these "five loaves and two fishes" are, they are the grace and blessings that can feed more than five thousand people, and still have the surplus because *"Little is much when God is in it."*

Legion of Mary is a place full of surprises that you can never imagine! For the spirit of the Legion of Mary is the spirit of Mary, the Holy Mother leads us to pray together, work together, live together authentically and love each other like family members. Through mutual encouragement and exhortation, we recognize our weaknesses, and we learn to be humble and change ourselves willingly for the love of God.

We wish that this recruitment activity had inspired you and brought God's blessing to everyone of you! We wish that you could build your relationship with God and understand that everything we do is for HIS love and the love of Virgin Mary. Do you want to get this beautiful gift from God personally? Please come and join us! Be a member of the Legion of Mary!

To be continued on P9

致聖母聖衣堂的您們：

從來，招募工作對我們都是一個很大的挑戰！因為我們知道在我們努力付出一切過後，也未必能夠得到我們原先計劃想要得到的成果。可是，「天主為愛他的人所準備的，是眼所未見，耳所未聞，人心所未想到的。」（格林多人前書 2:9）這話真不錯！我們就是天主所愛的人啊！

招募活動表面看來是要宣傳聖母軍，希望更多人加入聖母軍，但是我們卻感覺到這是天主給我們珍貴的禮物，讓我們有機會勇敢地 and 真誠地去反思自己留在聖母軍這個團體的原因，也叫我們再一次回憶起天主召叫了我們這份獨特的恩寵。天主更透過這次招募活動讓我們近距離地接觸這個堂區裏的其他教友，讓我們有機會去更認識您們每一位！

您們在這兩星期有否收到我們送出的「喜樂小天使」和「五餅二魚」吊飾嗎？這正是我們想要分享給您們的：

「喜樂小天使」- 代表着我們在聖母軍裏生活經驗到天主給我們的愛、喜樂和平安。

「五餅二魚」- 代表着我們每星期的微小工作。

不要少看「五餅二魚」是那樣微小啊！它們卻是能夠餵飽五千人後還有剩餘的恩寵和祝福。

聖母軍的生活就是這樣一個令您們意想不到的地方！因為聖母軍的精神就是聖母的精神。聖母讓我們聚在一起祈禱、一起工作、一起真實地生活，像家人般相親相愛，透過大家互相的勉勵和勸勉，認識到自

己的盲點，繼而慢慢學習謙卑，甘心情願地為愛天主而去改變自己。

希望是次招募活動為您們每一位都帶來了一點點啟發和祝福，讓您們真切地去感受一下自己與天主的關係，明白我們所作的一切都是為愛天主、愛聖母而去做的。您們也想在聖母軍這個團體裏親身感受一下這份美麗的推動嗎？歡迎來探訪我們啊！

羅婷芝

仁慈之母支團



Recruitment Activities

By: Leony Mallare

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium

Nawa ang Diyos ay sumaating lahat, kasama ng ating Mahal na Birheng Maria. Sa dalawang linggong pingpala ng ating Panginoon,, kami ay masiglang nakahikayat ng mga parishioners at sila po ay aktibong nagdarasal ng rosary araw araw. Kaya nga sumagi sa aking isipan na gawin silang katuwang sa pagdarasal ng Catena at binigyan ko sila ng Tesera upang maging gabay nila sa pang-araw-araw ng dasal.

Pagkalipas ng dalawang araw ako po lubos na nagalak nang kumustahin ko ang isa sa kanila. Eto ang kanyang tugon: "Blessed time po, Sis. To God be the greatest glory. Opo, dinarasal ko po ito na nasi ko rin pong ibahagi sa aking mga kaibigan ang pagdarasal ng rosaryo."

Habang kami ay abala sa paghahayo, mayroon kusang nagtanong kung ano ang aming pinamimigay. Aking tugon naman, 'ito ay libreng give-away sa mga nagnanais maging legionary.' At inalok namin sila kung maaring mag-akyat ng Mahal na Birheng Fatima sa kanilang bahay. Bagamat sila ay busy sa kanilang trabaho, kami po ay pinahintulutan na maipanhik ang ating Mahal na Birheng Maria. Salamat sa Diyos!

Sa pangalawang linggo ng paghahayo, ako ay muling nakasumpong ng isa pang mananampalataya kay Kristo na nais dumalo sa aming pagtitipon. Siya ay maysakit, at nag-request ng sakramento ng pagpapahid ng santo oliyo sa ating butihing pari na si Fr. Thomas Law bago mag misa. Pagkatapos ng misa, sama-sama kaming kumain. Ipinalangin din naming pagalingin nawa siya ng ating Panginoon at samahan sa kanyang kapighatian. Makalipas ang ilang araw, nag-text ako sa kanya: 'ikaw, kapatid ang ibinigay ni Mama Mary sa aming Px. Ang lahat ay biyaya ng Diyos.' Tumugon naman siya: 'Maraming salamat po sa mainit na pagtanggap ninyo sa akin. Nawa'y pagkalooban ako ng Diyos ng gumaling sa aking sakit at maipagpatuloy ang nasimulan ko sa OLMC Px. Amen.

Kami po ay nagpupuri at nagpapasalamat sa ating Panginoong Hesukristo kasama ng Mahal na Birheng Maria at ng Banal na Espiritu Santo sa naging matagumpay at sama-samang panalangin sa ating mahal na Diyos!



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Legion of Mary

Recruitment Activities

By: Helen Chua

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Praesidium

With the support of our Parish Priest, Fr. Thomas Law, we were allowed to do recruitment activity for the Legion of Mary in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church for two weeks. I participated in the two consecutive Sundays, after all the masses. The experience was great and very interesting. We all had the chance to work together with and get to know members of the other Praesidia in our Parish as well as those from other parishes. Some are locals and some are Filipinos like me. It is not a difficult task to introduce the Legion of Mary to the parishioners and mass-goers because we were provided with the materials that helped us perform the assignment efficiently; like signage of some apostolic works and functions. The form in

English and Chinese to be filled up by the prospective member contained the explanation about the Legion of Mary and the information on the meeting day and time of each praesidia. We also gave away simple souvenirs.

The parishioners or mass-goers have varied responses. Some were willing to spend a few minutes to listen to the introduction about the Legion of Mary. Others just smile and pass-by. And still others just directly reject the invitation. But the rejection did not dampen my spirit and tempted me to give up, instead, it encouraged me to try harder and trust fully in God. Many of those we contacted said they will consider and think about visiting or joining us in the future. We are very delighted and inspired when two ladies accepted the invitation to visit us in our meetings. They have continued to visit us in the two weeks after the recruitment activity!

Thanks be to God and Mama Mary for this opportunity!



By: Lennie Rualo



It was a good idea to have the recruitment activity around the church. We were able to approach many parishioners who are just leaving the parish after attending mass, and those who are waiting for the next mass. We have more chance to talk, explain and introduce the Legion of Mary though some of them said they did not have the time and others said they are not yet ready to commit themselves. Luckily and through our perseverance and Mama Mary's help, two mass goers accepted our invitation to attend our meeting. They have been attending for two weeks now! They have informed our Praesidium that they are interested and will consider to be active members once they finish their other commitments so it will not be in conflict with the meeting schedule. We will follow up from time to time. Not that the pandemic is not as serious as before, I pray that we could do this recruitment or outreach again in public places like Central, just like crowd contact or evangelization. It will be nice to contact people again- talk to them and share the good news!

Thank you and God bless us!!!

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Community

22 February = Ash Wednesday = Start of Lent 2023



Stations of The Cross at OLMC

Every Friday during Lent – 6:30pm (English) | 7:30pm (Chinese)

Other Lenten Activities

Towards God with Prayer

2023 Lenten Lecture Series

Direct from ANGELICVM, Rome
14, 21 & 28 March 2023 at 20:30hrs SGT

A Curial Greeting from the Aventine Hill

Fr. Gerard Timoner will open the lecture series with a curial greeting from Rome on 14 March 2023.



Fr. Gerard Timoner, O.P. III,
Grand Chancellor,
88th Successor to St. Dominic,
Master of the Order of Preachers

Fr. Gerard Francisco Pareo Timoner, O.P., a son of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and first Asian Master of the Order, was elected Grand Chancellor on July 13, 2018. In 2024, Fr. Timoner was named a member of the International Theological Commission by Pope Francis himself. As the Master of the Order, Fr. Timoner is simultaneously the Grand Chancellor of IUST and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas – the ANGELICVM in Rome.

The Presences of God in the World

14 March 2023 @ 20:30 SGT

People are sometimes advised to begin their daily prayers by making an act of the presence of God. While God is not the same thing as the world, and God is not absent from the world, he is present in the world in different ways. That talk explains three main ways in which God is present among us. The first is the way that God is present to us that He has made as Creator, nearer to us that we are to ourselves. A second way He is present to us is as One that we know and love. This makes sense of the Christian teaching that God the Holy Trinity is present in the souls of the just in a special way known as the divine indwelling. Finally, Christians believe that God is present in a personal way in Jesus, who is God dwelling amongst us.



Fr. Simon Geline, O.P.,
Professor of Theology
Director
Angelicum Thomistic Institute

Falling towards God: What the Saints teach us about Prayer

21 March 2023 @ 20:30 SGT

One of the great images given to us by tradition and by the Catholic saints to describe progress in prayer is the ascent of a high mountain. But the image on which I wish to focus attention, and it is an image also followed by tradition, is an image not of going up but of going down, an image of a humble descent, an image of falling. Progress viewed in this perspective can be thought of taking place in three stages: first, falling into Sin; second, falling towards God; and third, falling in love with God.



Fr. Paul Murray, O.P.,
Professor of Theology
Master in Sacred Theology
Angelicum

Living Friendship with God

28 March 2023 @ 20:30 SGT

Thomas Aquinas defines charity as a type of friendship with God, employing a theology rich in biblical and patristic roots. The summit of Old Testament friendship with God is embodied in Abraham, to whom God reveals His secrets. Wisdom portrays God as enlarging the network of divine friendship, offering that God's wisdom produces in every generation friends of God and prophets. The fulfillment of this promise, however, occurs in Christ, who calls His disciples friends. This talk will sketch the features of this divine friendship.



Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P.,
Professor of Theology
Director
Angelicum Institute of Spirituality

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The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, popularly known as "the ANGELICVM" is an international Dominican center of learning in the historic center of Rome. The university has faculties of Theology, Philosophy, Canon Law, and Social Sciences, along with a higher institute of Religious Sciences, Master Sciences. The university is run by the Dominicans (Order of Preachers) whose headquarters are also in Rome. While many students are preparing for the ordination to the priesthood or for a ministry in the Church, there is a rapidly growing number of lay students. All carry a commitment of dedication and service to Jesus Christ to engage the culture using the wisdom of the "doctor communis," Saint Thomas Aquinas. Today the Angelicum remains committed to preserving the heritage of St. Thomas Aquinas as a vital force in theological and philosophical scholarship and in the teaching of classical Roman Catholic Theology. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B4m5w5t5s>

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