

Theme Sharing

Presentation of the Lord

The parents of Jesus, faithful to the prescriptions of the law given to Moses, bring their child Jesus to Jerusalem in order to present him to the Lord through the observance of the appointed temple ritual. A man named Simeon, also a faithful Jew inspired by the Holy Spirit, came to believe that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. He took the baby Jesus in his arms recognizing him to be the promised one who would bring salvation not only to Israel, but to all people. Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary that she would know a deep sorrow.

In the story of the Presentation, Luke gives us a preview of the major themes he will develop in his gospel. The first one that strikes us is that God is not always present with us in the story of our lives in the way we expect. Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, is born poor. His parents are not even able to offer the customary lamb of the well-to-do, but only "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Then Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, recognizes the child Jesus to be the promised one of God, yet sensed that the child's mother would know deep sorrow. Michelangelo's famous marble sculpture expresses the meaning of this sorrow as we see the grieving Mary holding the crucified, lifeless body of her son on her lap. That God's way of bringing salvation would bring such a painful death to the Messiah and such sorrow to his mother is surely contrary to our human logic and expectation.

Luke juxtaposes the event of the Presentation of the Lord with prayer, another major theme of his gospel. Mary and Joseph offer their child to God in prayer. Simeon and the prophetess Anna bless God for the redemption this child Jesus will one day bring to an oppressed people. Prayer is a means by which we can be freed from the ways of thinking of a fallen humanity, and be in touch with God's way of thinking. All of us probably at times have succumbed to a superficial, self-serving kind of prayer in which we explain to God exactly how and when the divine power must resolve a difficult situation in our favor. When our expectation is not realized, we tend to doubt whether God really cares about us when more suffering seems to be the only outcome of our prayer. For this reason, Luke takes special care to show us the way Jesus

prays, particularly when he realizes that his death is at hand. At this moment, Jesus also realizes what deep grief his suffering and death will bring to his mother.

When Jesus realized that his arrest by Roman soldiers was imminent, he went to the Mount of Olives to pray alone, saying: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Only his faith, beyond human logic, enabled him to trust that his Father's will for him could only be love, even though he would suffer and be killed. The cup of suffering, in fact, was not taken away. Jesus, dying an excruciating death on a cross, cried out in a loud voice: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). The trust of Jesus in his Father's love, when every logical reason for trust had been lost, was vindicated in the resurrection. Human and divine love proved to be more powerful than evil and death, and transformed suffering and death to become life-giving for all of us. The special grace of the Eucharist today, through our deeper communion in the life of the Risen Lord, is the gift of praying with unconditional trust in our Father's love in our time of distress and suffering. This is the bond of love in Christ which will transform our meaningless suffering into life-giving grace for others.

News & Others

Pope Francis offered his best wishes to the Far East and to all people around the world who will be celebrating the Lunar New Year

(Vatican Radio News) On Jan. 26, Pope Francis presided over the Angelus prayer from the window of his study in the Pontifical building. After reciting the Angelus, he sent his greetings to the Far East and to all Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese people from around the world, wishing them a Happy Lunar New Year.

The Pope said: "I wish that their lives will be filled with joy and hope. May their deep desire for love be fulfilled in the loving relationship within the family, and let others find love, receive the education of love, and put it all into practice. This will provide valuable contribution in forming a world which is more humane, and is ruled by peace."

Gospel of joy Evangelii Gaudium

«Gospel of Joy»

Church to open the door, issuing prophetic voice

The books of the Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times. The prophet Isaiah exultantly salutes the awaited Messiah: "You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy" (9:3). He exhorts those who dwell on Zion to go forth to meet him with song: "Shout aloud and sing for joy!" (12:6). The prophet tells those who have already seen him from afar to bring the message to others: "Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem" (40:9). All creation shares in the joy of salvation: "Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth! Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones" (49:13). Zechariah, looking to the day of the Lord, invites the people to acclaim the king who comes "humble and riding on a donkey": "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he" (9:9).

Perhaps the most exciting invitation is that of the prophet Zephaniah, who presents God with his people in the midst of a celebration overflowing with the joy of salvation. I find it thrilling to reread this text: "The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives you the victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival" (3:17).

This is the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life, as a response to the loving invitation of God our Father: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment" (Sir 14:11, 14). What tender paternal love echoes in these words!
To Be Continued

Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium of The Holy Father Francis.

Pope Francis' words

God is so merciful toward us. We too should learn to be merciful, especially with those who suffer.

Diocese & Other News

Coldest Night of the Year – February 22, 2014. The RC Diocese of Calgary and KAIROS Calgary are pleased to hold this fundraising event. Register a team to walk in support of Homelessness Awareness, Acadia Place and Feed the Hungry. Our route will visit key points of contact for Calgary's Homeless citizens in the downtown core. 10KM and 5KM routes have been established for this family friendly event. Visit www.coldestnightoftheyear.org or call Samantha Jones at 403-218-5531 for more information.

Let There Be Light

Prayer for a Blessing on the New Year

O sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our prayers on behalf of our holy Father the Pope, our Bishops, our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech Thee, during the coming year, the whole Catholic Church; convert heretics and unbelievers; soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Thy friendship; give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world; pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any; assist the poor and the sick; have pity on the souls of those whom this year has taken from us; and do Thou be merciful to those who during the coming year will be summoned before Thy judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations and carried on by Thy assistance, so that all our prayers and works, having been begun in Thee, may likewise be ended through Thee. Amen.

Parish Activities

22nd World Day of The Sick February 11, 2014

Theme : "Faith and Charity-We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16)
Pope Francis is commending the XXII World

Day of the Sick in 2014 to the intercession of Mary, so that she will help sick people to live their own suffering in communion with Jesus Christ. It will be on February 11, the annual celebration of the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. On this day, the ill are encouraged to reflect on the Christian meaning of suffering. The occasion also provides an opportunity for those involved in health care to recall the roots of their healing mission. Please pray for the sick!

On Feb 16 all the masses will be dedicated to the sick. Fr. Joseph will anoint those sick parishioners attending the 11:30am Mass. We will reserve seats for parishioners who would like to be anointed on that day.

Family Ski Trip

Youth Group invites all youths and families to join the annual Family Day Ski Trip on Saturday, February 15 at Nakiska in Kananaskis. Registration and collection of the forms will be at Upper Hall after 10am Mass. Deadline to register is Feb 9. Please contact John (johnld.guo@gmail.com) or Chelsea (chelsealau@gmail.com) for further information and registration.

Weekly Activities

Wed, Fri 5, 7

OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon
Place: OLPH Church, Upper Hall

Fri 7

OLPH Scout

Time: 6:30pm.-8:30 pm
Place: Upper Hall & Lower Hall

Saturday 8

Legion of Mary (meeting)

Time: 9:45a.m.
Place: K of C Room

Faith Sharing Group (N.E)

Time: 10:30a.m.-12:00noon.
Contact: Sr. Sze 403-230-3801

Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00noon
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Yoga beginner class

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Chinese New Year Banquet 2014

Time: Reception from 6 p.m.,
dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Chinese Cultural Centre,
banquet by Cultural Centre Restaurant

Sunday 9

R. C.I.A

Adult Catechumenate Class
(Cantonese, Mandarin and English)
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.
Place: Office Building

Imitating Christ

Chapter 25 :

Zeal In Amending Our Lives

The religious who concerns himself intently and devoutly with our Lord's most holy life and passion will find there an abundance of all things useful and necessary for him. He need not seek for anything better than Jesus.

To Be Continued

Stories Faith Sharing

Obstacles? Deal with Them Now

An old farmer had plowed around a large rock in one of his fields for years. He had broken several plowshares and a cultivator on it and had grown rather morbid about the rock.

After breaking another plowshare one day, and remembering all the trouble the rock had caused him through the years, he finally decided to do something about it. When he put the crowbar under the rock, he was surprised to discover that it was only about six inches thick and that he could break it up easily with a sledgehammer. As he was carting the pieces away he had to smile, remembering all the trouble that the rock had caused him over the years and how easy it would have been to get rid of it sooner. By Brian Cavanaugh

Prayer for Christian Unity

2014 Prayer for Christian Unity

Theme: Has Christ been divided?

(cf. 1 Cor 1:1-17)

9. In the third movement (1:10-17), Paul addresses hard words to the Corinthians because of the ways that they have distorted the Christian gospel and broken the unity of the community: "I belong to Paul, I belong to Apollos, I belong to Cephas." Even those who claimed Christ as their leader were not applauded by Paul, for they used the name

of Christ to separate themselves from others in the Christian community. We cannot invoke Christ's name to build walls around us, because his name creates fellowship and unity, not divisions. "Has Christ been divided?" Paul does not object to forming communities around strong leadership, but the community is to find its fundamental identity in Christ: "Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?" Chloe's people have seen this development among them and have brought it to light.

10. Into this state of division comes Paul's appeal to come together and "be united in the same mind and the same purpose." He exhorts his readers and those in Corinth "to be in agreement." Does Paul think they should all worship and do things in the same way? We think not. These verses are not a call to leave aside the leadership of Paul, Apollos, or Cephas. Rooted in Christ, we are called to give thanks for the gifts of God that others outside our group bring to the common mission of the Church. Honouring the gifts of God in others draws us closer in faith and mission, and leads us towards that unity for which Christ prayed, with respect for authentic diversity in worship and life.

11. Paul highlights two central elements of Christian discipleship in which we are fundamentally bound to Christ: baptism and the cross of Christ. We were not baptized into Paul and he was not crucified for us; our unity is in Christ and our life and salvation come from him. At the same time, we all participate in one group or another, and our local churches nurture us in faith and help us to walk as disciples of Jesus. The conclusion of the matter, both for Paul and for us, is not only our sense of belonging to a particular church. Rather, our purpose is the proclamation of the good news, the very gospel to which we have responded in faith and joy. Now we must share this message with the world. Paul's conclusion challenges us to ask ourselves if we have good news in Christ for each other, or if we carry division even in the name of Christ, thus, in Paul's words, emptying the Cross of its power.

To Be Continued

主日分享

獻耶穌於聖殿慶日

慶日的福音選自路加福音，敘述瑪利亞和若瑟一滿了取潔的日期，便帶耶穌上耶路撒冷把他獻給上主，因為梅瑟的法律要求：「凡開胎首生的男性，應祝聖於上主」。當他們來到耶路撒冷聖殿時，正義虔誠的西默盎正在那裡等候迎接他們；因為他曾受聖神啓示，在他死前必要看見上主的默西亞。他一看見耶穌就雙臂接過他來，高聲讚美天主。正在那時刻，女先知亞納也前來聖殿稱謝天主，並向一切希望耶路撒冷得救贖的人講論這孩子。

瑪利亞和若瑟就在耶路撒冷聖殿中把耶穌奉獻給天主。這種奉獻不祇是交出而已，更是向天主承認耶穌是天主的兒子，並向天主保證他們會盡心盡力扶養他長大成人。

西默盎受聖神感動，明認耶穌就是依撒意亞先知預言的實現：「啓示異邦的光，以色列子民的榮耀」。耶穌是啓示普世萬邦的光與榮耀，不祇是為以色列而已。其實，作為真光的耶穌不可能被一個民族限制，祂必須向普世萬民開放。誰接納祂，必要獲享真光的照耀，在光中生活。那些在光中生活的人則必須反映真光，把真光帶給所有人；即或不然，至少不阻礙真光。

在這春節新年，我們有幸慶祝光的節日實在是一項天主的恩寵。讓我們立志做光明之子，成為有福的人，與耶穌同享福樂。祝福大家在新的一年前途光明，真光高照！阿們。

新聞及其他

教宗祝賀遠東及世界各地慶祝農曆新年的人們佳節愉快

（梵蒂岡電台訊）教宗方濟各元月 26 日在宗座大樓的書房窗口主持三鐘經祈禱活動。他在誦念三鐘經後，問候遠東和散居世界各地的華人、韓國人及越南人，祝賀他們農曆新年愉快。教宗說：「我祝願他們的生活充滿喜樂和希望。願他們心中對愛的不禁渴望，能在家庭的親密關係中找到，讓

其他人能發覺愛、受到愛的教育，並付諸實踐。這將為建設一個更有人性、由和平統治的世界，提供寶貴的貢獻。」

福音的喜樂

「福音的喜樂」 教會要敞開大門 發出先知性的聲音 福傳手冊【一】愛的使徒

第二講：福傳員的使命

[三] 福傳員是救護人靈的工作團
教宗聖若望二十三世仿佛是一位普世教會的哨兵，在瞭望台觀看得非常清晰，他眼見在俗教友熱衷於協助福傳工作的不多，而福傳工作，是一件刻不容緩急不可待的要務。他三令五申，號召有志福傳的熱心信友與堂區神長修士修女合作，聯合起來，共同背負十字架，拯救人靈的，所以說福傳員是救護人靈的工作團

[四] 福傳員是地上的鹽，世上的光
教宗比約十二世也非常注重福傳員的使命，在他的「致教友的訓話」中曾經強調說：“那些被教會神長委任傳播教理的人，是地上的鹽，世上的光，他們的工作是宗徒事業的工作。”因此，每一位福傳員都應該富有真誠的，熱切的福傳心火，不僅成聖自己，而且兼善他人。光如果不夠亮，鹽如果不夠咸，還有什麼用呢？福傳員不能歸化他人，引人歸依天主，還能稱得上是福傳員嗎？不過，引人歸依天主，接受福音，首先是福傳員自己應該信仰堅定，言行聖善。就是說，福傳員的信仰應該落實於聖潔的生活。

待續

教宗方濟各的話

天主如此仁慈地對待我們，我們也該學習仁慈地對待他人，特別是那些受苦的人。

堂區活動

22 屆世界病人日

2 月 11 日

主題：「信德與愛德－我們也應該為弟兄姐妹捨命。」

教宗方濟各在 2 月 11 日露德聖母紀念日，也是第 22 屆世界病人日的文告中指出：「教會確認受苦的基督以特殊的方式臨在於患病者身上。」

世界病人日於每年 2 月 11 日舉行，這天正是露德聖母顯現日。請大家為所有病人祈禱！

本堂將於 2 月 16 日的主日彌撒中特別為病患者祈禱，而阮神父將在十一時三十分彌撒中為有需要的病人教友傅油祝福。

當天本堂將預備部分座位給予傅油的教友。

家庭滑雪同樂日

青少年團將於 2 月 15 日（星期六）到 Kananaskis Nakiska 滑雪聖地，舉行每年一度的家庭滑雪同樂日，我們誠意邀請所有青少年與家人一起參加。

請於今天十時彌撒後在上禮堂報名登記，截止報名日期為 2 月 9 日。

詳情請與青少年團 John

(johnld.guo@gmail.com) 或 Chelsea (chelsealau@gmail.com) 聯絡。

活動一週

星期三、五 5, 7

永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午 9 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 7

永援聖母堂童軍

時間：晚上 6 時 30 分至 8 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂及下禮堂

星期六 8

聖母軍

(聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：早上 9 時 45 分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

東北區信仰小團體聚會

時間：早上 10 時 30 分至 12 時

聯絡：施修女 403-230-3801

楊式太極班

時間：上午 10 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

瑜珈初班

時間：下午 2 時至下午 3 時 15 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

永援聖母堂 2014 年新春團拜

時間：晚上 6 時恭候，

6 時 30 分入席

地點：中華文化中心禮堂，

晚宴由中華大酒樓安排

星期日 9

成人慕道班 (粵語、國語及英語)

時間上午 9 時 30 分至 1 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午 10 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈

師主篇

第二十五章、勤於改過自新

一位修道人盡心默想耶穌的行傳以及祂的苦難，為靈魂不論什麼有益處的事情都可以找得著。所以耶穌以外什麼也不必尋求。 待續

心靈小品

新春祝福

造生萬物的真主，人類的慈父，感謝祢恩賜我們歡度新春佳節，在這新的一年開始的時刻，我們願將未來的一切，無論是吉凶禍福，歡樂憂苦，都交託在祢手中，求祢保佑我們穩走天國之路；求祢的聖子基督常作我們人生旅途中的嚮導；

求賜聖神光照我們、扶助我們，使我們的思、言、行為常符合祢的旨意；求賜我們全家身心康泰、和睦相處。以上所求是靠我們的主基督。阿們。

靈修小故事

你們願意人怎樣待你們

你們也要怎樣待人

每年在德州奧斯丁市舉辦的圖書節，吸引成千上萬的人前來。他們享受瀏覽叢書的樂趣，參加名作家主持的研討會，以及搜集專業作家的智慧錦

囊。有一回，有位撰寫青年小說的作家，對一群有志於寫作的人說：「寫一本你想要在架上找到的書！」不管是對寫作或對生活來說，這都是一項相當有力的建議。試想，若是我們決定活出自己想要他人活出的樣式，會是什麼情況呢？

在路加福音 6 章 27-36 節裡，耶穌勸誡祂的跟隨者，追求能夠展現上主恩慈的生活方式：「你們的仇敵，要愛他！恨你們的，要待他好！咒詛你們的，要為他祝福！凌辱你們的，要為他禱告！」祂也提到，對於無理的對待，我們應當以寬容與不報復的行為作為回應。耶穌如此說：「你們願意人怎樣待你們，你們也要怎樣待人。」

你認為不可能？是的，倘若我們倚靠自己的能力和決心，的確無法辦到。能力是由聖神而來，謹記上主如何對待我們可以幫助我們下定決心，聖經說：「祂恩待那忘恩的和作惡的。你們要慈悲，像你們的父慈悲一樣」。這就是我們渴望看見的生命。

基督徒合一

2014 年基督徒合一

主題「基督被分裂了嗎？」

9. 在第三個篇章中 (1:10-17)，保祿責難格林多人曲解基督的福音，而且破壞了教會團體的合一：「我是屬保祿的，我是屬阿頗羅的，我是屬刻法的。」格林多人甚至宣稱保祿並不讚同他們眼中的基督，因為他們以基督的名義與教會團體中的其他信徒產生分裂。我們不能以基督之名祈求祂在我們彼此之間築起高牆，因為祂的名締造了團結與合一，而非分裂。「基督被分裂了嗎？」保祿並不反對藉由強大的領導力來組成教會團體，但教會團體的本意是要尋找其在基督內的特質：「難道保祿為你們被釘死在十字架上嗎？或者你們受洗是歸於保祿名下嗎？」黑羅厄的家人已經看到了他們之間的變化，並開始一一揭露。

10. 在分裂的情況下，保祿開始呼籲大家團結合一，「用相同的信念和決心團結一致。」他激勵他的讀者和格林多人「尋求一致」。「保祿認為他們應該用同樣的方法來朝拜天主和行事

嗎？」我們覺得並非如此。這些章節並不是呼召眾人離開保祿、阿頗羅或刻法的領導，而是要我們深植於基督，並感謝天主的恩賜，也就是外方人帶給教會的共同使命。榮耀上主的恩賜，使我們與自己的信仰及使命更為緊密，並引領我們尊重不同的禮儀和生活方式，真正地邁向基督所盼望的合一。

11. 身為基督的門徒，保祿強調了兩個中心要素：受洗和基督的十字架。我們不是為了保祿而受洗的，他也沒有為我們被釘死在十字架上；我們是為基督而追求合一，我們的生命與救恩也來自於祂。同時，我們都參與了同一個或不同的教會團體，我們的在地教會以信仰滋養我們，也幫助我們如同耶穌的門徒般昂首闊步。結論是保祿和我們的歸屬感不只是限於某個特定的教會；更確切的說，我們的目的是宣揚上主的福音，以信德和喜樂的心來回應。現在，我們必須將這個訊息和全世界分享。保祿的結論激發我們來捫心自問，我們有彼此分享基督的福音嗎？要是我們以基督之名行分裂之實，這樣會如保祿所言，使十字架失去效力。 待續