聖瑪竇宗徒堂區
St. Matthew the Apostle Parish

"Go, and make disciples from all nations... I am with you always until the end of this world."
-Mt. 28:19-20

ENGLISH COMMUNITY

June 2019

What a Wonderful World

-Fr. Pietro Zamuner, PIME

I remember when I was a young boy, in my village in the countryside. The feast of Easter had a special appeal on us little boys. Easter is a feast falling on springtime, mother nature was awaking from a long, cold wintertime: cherry-apple trees in full blossom, green grass all over, the young little plants of wheat dressed in a very dark beautiful green attire, we used to play various games with the Easter eggs, the next day all the family leaving the house for an excursion in the countryside and a picnic in the open. There was a special joyful atmosphere, a sense of a new beginning, new hope, new life, it was the ♫ what a wonderful world ♫ ....

This year our Easter weather was a lousy dark signal, with thunders and torrential rain. When I reached my home (not far away from where we had 'yam cha', I was like a sponge soaked with water from head to toes. Yet in my heart, I felt something that I didn't experienced for long, it was that kind of sensation that I had when I was young in my village in Italy during Easter time, what helped me to enter in this kind of serene peaceful mode was the thought that in the evening we were going to celebrate the baptism of twenty more people who decided to choose and to give a chance to the grace and love of the Lord. A common, plain evening was becoming an 'event', something specially meaningful.

This event, was becoming, for me a guarantee that our small community is a very vital one full of energy from the Holy Spirit, a special sign that our community is healthy and takes a special place in the plan of God.

Really we have to thank God for the gift He gave to us this year and at the same time to pray and hope that we can go on being witness of our joy among the people we are going to meet in our life.

We are sure in our faith that the risen Lord is walking with us, giving us the feeling of being always 'young and positive' because we walk together with the ONE who got the victory over death and darkness.

God bless.

"Bruce Almighty the Movie "

The English and Chinese community enjoyed a film showing entitled Bruce Almighty that was held at our Mass Hall last April 29. Bruce Almighty was a fantasy comedy starring Jim Carrey as the main character, Bruce Nolan, and Morgan Freeman as God. Amazingly enough, this movie -- with its wholesome and heartwarming moral.

Almighty actually attempts to impart a moral lesson.

When the film first starts, Bruce is miserable with his life, even though his life is actually great. He has a good job where all he has to do is be funny on TV. He can afford to eat, has all the facilities in his house such as light and heat. He has a nice apartment in a nice part of town and a beautiful girlfriend who adores him, wants to marry him, and wants to have his babies.

Bruce's biggest problems are a dog that keeps peeing on the rug and the occasional traffic jam on his way to work -- both things that can be solved easily and are solved easily by him toward the end of the film.

Like any immature person, Bruce has to blame someone else for his misfortune. His live-in girlfriend, Grace , takes the first assault, but Bruce saves the major tantrum for God. He shouts, "Why me? " God shows more patience for his misbehaving creatures. He calls Bruce on his cell phone and initiates a little game. If Bruce thinks God is doing such a poor job of running the universe, let him take a turn.
He also keeps blaming God for all his problems, as if he weren't living the high life.

Grace gives Bruce her prayer beads, and this is where the film gets real in the message it's trying to convey.

There's a reason that people use prayer beads and rosary to talk to God. It's because they make it easier for God to answer. The ultimate symbol of unconditional love, which is God.

GOD lets Bruce have all his power. Bruce getting in a car crash and having a near death experience because he didn't heed God's signs is also realistic.

Most people going on a spiritual journey have to have a near death experience before they wake up and start noticing what the Universe is trying to tell them. We could almost say Bruce was on a spiritual journey in this film, that he was going through a Dark Night of the Soul .

True to the spiritual path, it is after his near death experience that Bruce connects with God and is granted his powers.

It is at this point in the film that Bruce realized that instead of helping other people, and don't know, solving world hunger, he immediately sets out to make his own life better and abuses the power he's been given in order to serve himself.

In this life we never know who might need a handing hand and who knows what an effect it can have on them. Another thing that I got out of this movie is, that it's okay if I don't know how to handle a situation, just like Bruce each of us come from many stages in life, but God has already got the situation figured out, God shows us many signs in our life, we just have to learn to follow those signs, cause it was never ours to begin with, it is always God's. Even when we find ourselves just like Bruce struggling, God can turn our struggles into something beautiful no matter how small or big the struggle is, if we give God permission.
–Feliza Pulvera

Faith Journey in the Community

Anniversary celebrations are a good chance to gather together, to be happy and to thank God for all His graces and blessings all through those past years. God 's loving kindness, mercy and healing has been felt by those people who came and go in this community within this 26 years of existence and we pray for more fruitful years to come.

It is also a good time to reflect on how far did our faith shaped us as members of this community and how stronger yet we are to become. When we first join the community, maybe some of us clearly know what's our purpose , some maybe are a little confused and can't understand yet but whatever the reasons or intentions for joining, one thing is sure, we are called by God and we answered with a BIG YES! Then starts the learning process. I hope that during our brief stay, we learn well about our Catholic faith, do well in our commitments, support each other, lift up one another and spread the love to our brothers and sister through our service.

For this 26th year anniversary of the English community the members opted to celebrate in a simple way at the Butterfly beach area on June 7. Each ministry members from the English community were assigned to bring food according to their likes and to be shared by all during lunch time. Each leader of the ministries also prepared games and to facilitate it to be enjoyed by all.

The Filipino community is mostly composed of members from different parts of the Philippines with different backgrounds, cultures, dialects, attitudes… but with this many differences among us, we still decided to lay it all down and to work together voluntarily to serve in this community. And just like any other communities, there will always be a time for a smooth rides as well as a time for bumpy rides, but what matters most is to stick together and enjoy the ride with God in our midst.

As we continue our journey in this community, may this verse remind and help us to be a better workers in the vineyard of our Father. ***"Love is patient, kind without envy. It is not boastful or arrogant. It is not ill mannered nor does it seek its own interest. Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. It does not take delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."*** - 1Corinthians 13: 4-7

Let us pray for this love to take root among us and that we may always strive for peace and unity so that we may be able to share the good news effectively.

Happy blessed 26th year Anniversary Filipino Community! ***-Lolita Lutwachen***

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

June 23, 2019

**"What wonderful majesty!
What stupendous condescension!
O sublime humility!
That the Lord of the whole universe,
God and the Son of God,
should humble Himself like this under
the form of a little bread,
for our salvation"**

**"...In this world I cannot see
the Most High Son of God
with my own eyes,
except for His Most Holy Body
and Blood."**

--St. Francis of Assisi

Receive The Power Of The Holy Spirit

This school year of the catechism, I have joined the confirmation class as a volunteer teacher. It helped me refreshed what I learned when I was young and it broaden my knowledge regarding what we believed as Catholics and how it is related to our life.

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic church and one of the three sacraments of initiation. This sacrament is called confirmation because it confirms and strengthens the baptismal grace. Most of us when we were baptized our God parents and parents answered for us but during the Confirmation the confirmands are ready to take responsibility for their faith and to answer for themselves.

Confirmation is often held Pentecost Sunday when Christian celebrates the descent of the Holy spirit upon the Apostles. This was being performed by the Bishop using an oil of chrism (consecrated oil) to make the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying; "***Be sealed with the gift of the holy spirit***" but for special cases, just like in our Parish, the Bishop can delegate a priest to confirm on his behalf.

Why is it being done on the forehead? Since forehead is part of our face which first thing people see when they talk to you and they should be noticed about you ….**is your faith in Christ.**

This sacrament also signified the preparation to do a spiritual battle with the evil. By receiving the sacrament of confirmation, we are able to receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which are: **WISDOM , UNDERSTANDING , COUNSEL, FORTITUDE, KNOWLEDGE, PIETY AND FEAR OF THE LORD.**

Nicole Bryanne Lebane and Earwyna Hui, the two kids from our catechism class will be receiving the sacrament of confirmation this year. We pray for them for they are our new soldiers in Christ's Army! ***-Arlina Dulin***

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions

JUNE

Evangelization – Priests
That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are the most poor.

JULY

Universal – Justice
That those who administer justice may work with integrity and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

Parish Priest:
Fr. Pietro Zamuner, PIME

Sunday Masses:
9:00am (Chinese)
10:30am (English)

Anticipated Sunday Mass:
Saturday 6:00pm (Chinese)

Weekday Masses:
Mon - Sat 8:00am (Chinese)

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