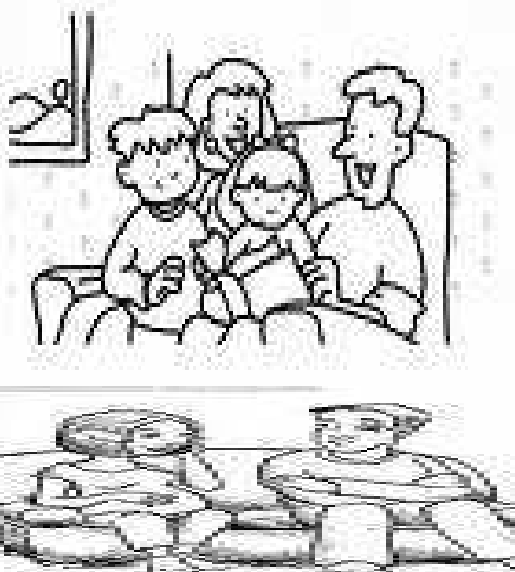






# FOR OUR REFLEXION



## The Rosary



The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

The feast was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The pope attributed more to the "arms" of the Rosary than the power of cannons and the valor of the soldiers who fought there.

Legend tells us that the Rosary as a form of prayer was given to St. Dominic (1170- 1221) by Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, who entrusted it to him as an aid in the conflicts with the Albigensians. The Dominican pope, St. Pius V, did much to further the spread of the Rosary and it thereafter became one of the most popular devotions in Christendom.

It was the same Pope St. Pius V, who in 1569 officially approved the Rosary in its present form with the Papal Bull, CONSUEVERUNT ROMANI PONTIFICES. It had been completed by the addition of the second half of the "Hail Mary" and the "Glory be to the Father" at the conclusion of each mystery.

## Why have a family?

We hear about love in a family, complaints in a family, problems in a family. Isn't this because the family has its deepest roots in life and happiness? Modern psychology has shown the necessity of a loving family for the development of a child.

■ Yes, we reach an age when it is considered normal to be autonomous and create some distance between ourselves and our family: "You leave your father and your mother..." (Genesis 2:24) Doing this is a sign of maturity. The sign of an extended adolescence would be to remain very dependent upon the family.

■ We may not always agree with the way we were brought up or with the ideals or limitations of our family. We tend to ridicule its weaknesses and failings. We may be afraid that our friends make fun of these limitations or make fun of our parents who are not the way we would want them to be or don't project the image we wish they would. Despite all of this, no one wants to see their parents separate or to live in a family that constantly fights. There is something very important in a family that is truly a treasure.

■ If we have difficulties in our family, we must allow time and our own growth in maturity to work on the situation. We can find tremendous freedom in forgiving our family! Not by reacting aggressively or by having a strong dependence on our family which inhibits our own growth. (The problem of co-dependence of members of a family upon each other is a common expression these days.) In this way, we are better able to build our personal life and perhaps eventually consider entering a "covenant" of marriage with another person.

■ There is a truth about marriage that transcends different cultures and goes beyond the weaknesses and limitations of people. The "I do" in marriage is the corner stone of a community of life and love, and the power of a man and woman to give life is not just in conceiving and giving birth to a child. Within the family, the child will be able to grow and develop as a unique person. The character, the freedom and the history of this new individual is constructed: the family is not a closed circle. It is a place for growth and for life and it is the foundation of all human society.

## Upcoming activities

**October 1:** (National Day)

### **A DAY OF FUN AND CHARITY**

#### **Oct. 7, 2008 Chung Yeung Festival**

The community has arranged a spontaneous Fun Day and Charity in one on Oct. 7, the public holiday. Enjoy the day while giving your donations. Proceeds will go to the community fund. Hope to see you on that special fun day. All welcome. Pls. check the [bulletin board for details](#).

### **GENERAL MEETING**

**On Oct. 26, 2008** after Mass we will have our second Bi-annual General Meeting for all the group members in 4F Hall. It is an opportunity to improve communications among the groups to clarify and discuss issues as well as to get input for future planning. We hope you will make an effort to attend.

# MIGRANT DESK CORNER

## *Take Your Rights seriously*



### **Do I really have to carry my passport or Hong Kong ID card with me at all times?**

If you are over 11 years old, then yes you do have to carry a form of identification when you go out in public places. The Immigration Ordinance and the police force ordinance of Hong Kong tell us that police officers or Immigration officers may require any person over the age of 11 to produce his or her ID card while in a public place. People living in Hong Kong then have a duty to produce some legal form of identification such as a passport or Hong Kong Identity card while in public. Failure to do so actually constitutes an offense which may result in a \$1,000 fine.

#### ***What about my passport, do I have to carry it at all times?***

No, you don't have to carry passport if you have a valid Hong Kong ID card in your possession. However, it is important to keep in mind that the Hong Kong authorities are very strict about all personal identity documents. Any kind of alteration or changes made to passport or ID card, is taken very seriously by the police and Immigration authorities in Hong Kong. For example, there have been cases of workers who have come to Hong Kong, and then after their contract is finished, returned to their home country.

Then, at some later points in time they alter their identity documents by entering a different name or a different date of birth on a new passport. Then they return to Hong Kong thinking that the Immigration authority will not find out about the changes that had been made in terms of their new identity. It is very important to remember however, that this is a big mistake for anyone to try to do this. It is easy for the authority to determine the real facts. The Immigration Department will have both your fingerprints and your photo on file.

Furthermore, any falsification of personal identity documents is considered to be a jailable in Hong Kong. Such acts are considered to be the offense of making false statement to an Immigration Officer. As such this kind of thing is treated as a serious crime. Those who are may be given a prison sentence of up to two years. It's never a smart thing to do because its easy for the Immigration Department to discover the truth and will be treated very severely.

#### ***What if my employment agency or my employer tells me that I have to hand my passport over to them?***

Your passport is your own personal property and no one, such as an employer, agency or loan company can legally order you to turn it over. In fact the law states that you have a responsibility to keep your passport in your own possession. If someone such as an employer, loan company or employment agency ask you to hand it over, tell him or her that the law forbids you to do so. Never give up your passport or identity card to either employers or employment agencies.

*Take Your Rights seriously ( Jim Rice )*

## **October, the Month of the Most Holy Rosary**



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

**1.** We are already on the threshold of the month of October, which, with the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, inspires us to rediscover this traditional prayer, so simple yet so profound.

The Rosary is a way of **contemplating the face of Christ seeing him - we may say - with the eyes of Mary.** For this reason, it is a prayer that drawing upon the core of the Gospel is in full accord with the inspiration of the Second Vatican Council and very much in keeping with the direction I gave in the Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio ineunte*: the Church has to launch out "into the deep" in the new millennium beginning with the contemplation of the face of Christ.

Therefore, I wish to suggest the recitation of the Rosary to individuals, families and Christian communities. To give force to this invitation, *I am preparing a document* which will help to rediscover the beauty and depth of this prayer.

**2.** I wish once again to entrust *the great cause of peace* to the praying of the Rosary. We are facing an international situation that is full of tensions, at times threatening to explode. In some parts of the world, where the confrontation is harsher - I think particularly of the suffering land of Christ - we can realize that, even though they are necessary, political efforts are worth little if one remains exacerbated in his mind and no one cares to demonstrate a new disposition of heart in the hope of reviving the struggle and effort of dialogue.

Who but God alone can infuse such sentiments? It is more necessary than ever that from every part of the earth *prayer for peace* be made to Him. In this perspective, the Rosary turns out to be the form of prayer most needed. It builds peace because, while it appeals to the grace of God, it sows in the one praying it the seed of good from which we can expect the fruit of justice and solidarity for personal and community life. I am thinking of nations and also of families. How much peace would flow into family relationships if the family would begin again to pray the Rosary.



# MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



## Oct 5: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Tenants and Stewards

Readings: ♦ Is 5:1 - 7

♦ Phil 4:6 - 9 ♦ Mt 21:33 - 43

Under the impulse of the Spirit, the Church from its very beginning has been a community of believers...It has been based on the willingness of all community members, as good stewards, to accept responsibility for the way we live our lives, use our talents, time and treasure and respond to the needs and rights of others. We are called to be a people who produce fruit, who show we are Christians by the way we live.

## Oct 12: 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: You are invited

Readings: ♦ Is 25:6 - 10

♦ Phil 4:12 - 14, 19 - 20 ♦ Mt 22:1 - 14

The Church is called to be a sign of God's kingdom in our midst. In seeing the Church, this community of believers, the people should have a glimpse of what it will be like to be united in love to one another in Christ the Lord. In this Sunday's parable, the Kingdom of God is likened to a wedding feast that God invites us to. We are free to respond to this invitation. As we gather here today, we see the Eucharist as the heavenly banquet to which everyone is invited to become one with Jesus Christ, but we must come prepared, by living a life worthy of this call and invitation.

## Oct 19: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Mission Sunday)

Theme: Whose image is this?

Readings: ♦ Is 45:1, 4 - 6

♦ 1 Thes 1:1 - 5 ♦ Mt 22:15 - 21

Every person is of priceless value; made in God's image, redeemed by Christ and called to an eternal destiny. That is why we are to recognize all people as our neighbors, and to love them with the love of Christ. We must be concerned both for the spiritual welfare of others as well as the condition of their daily lives. We should strive to provide them with authentic freedom, spiritual and moral well-being, intellectual and cultural development, and meet their material and physical needs.

## Oct 26: 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: I will be with you always

Readings: ♦ Is 22:20 - 26

♦ 1 Thes 1:5 - 10 ♦ Mt 22:34 - 40

The mission of the Church is to proclaim the reign of God, and to help it become a reality in the world today. The kingdom begins in people's hearts, when they focus their lives of God and God's concerns. God's reign is one of peace, love, justice and mercy. As we pray for the coming of God's reign, that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we too must participate in the works of love and justice as Jesus did, and strive for harmony where all people are centered on God, care for one another and for all creation.

## COMMUNITY HIKING DAY



The St. Jerome's English community hiking was full of fun. Everyone had a great day, the hike was great, warm not very hot day and picture takings delayed the walk but we really loved the great area. Fr. Sylvere and Deacon Paul did a great job putting out a great map, (because no one was familiar with the place), we managed to trace the trek, though.

As always a great bunch of people were there and we really had a tiring but awesome time. For beginners like us, we really enjoyed getting some exercise, the pace and the terrain were just right for a little on-trail conversation. We look forward to another HIKING!

Special thanks to Fr. Sylvere, Deacon Paul and Bro. Dominique for their participation and their precious time given to us. Thank you, Hikers! Hikers have more fun!