



Vocations of Hope

Fr. Andrew Wang, SVD



A vocation is a precious gift that God sows in our heart, a call to leave ourselves behind and embark on a journey of love and service. Every vocation in the Church, whether lay, ordained, or consecrated, is a sign of the hope that God has for this world and for each of His children.

—MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 62nd WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS “Pilgrims of Hope: the Gift of Life”

In our celebration of the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope, our focus also turns to our own vocations. Whatever the call may be, or in whatever form we responded, they all stemmed from the vocations of hope because our vocations walk hand in hand with hope. In God’s plan of salvation, vocation and hope coexist. Through the calling of the Holy Trinity, we trust and entrust ourselves to God, becoming pilgrims of hope.

Whether we are living a married life, living a consecrated life, or still discerning our vocation, these are ways and means of sharing in God’s divine love and mark the beginning of our journey toward eternal life.

“Hope” is the illumination of our calling and the key to every vocation, for hope is our expectation and longing for the future—built upon our present experiences and feelings. Only when we encounter God and meet Jesus does our vocation become stirred, become longing, and motivate us to act with hope. That is our faith: as our faith allows us to touch Jesus Christ, to encounter His life with unwavering hope, and only then can our service and dedication become complete. Any lifestyle choice belongs to Christ, for only Christ grants us eternal life; He alone is our way, truth, and life.

The vocation of marriage gives more than just the responsibility of transmitting life; it is also about mutual encouragement and support—living out Christ’s values. In each other, the married couple finds Christ’s presence. In the life of bearing and raising children, they share and transmit Christ’s life. The married couple are the pilgrims of hope. Even when challenged by changing circumstances, selfish desires, pressures, and temptations, they should live in the present moment—worshiping Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament with a heart full of hope, participating in every Eucharistic celebration with a heart full of gratitude, and proclaiming and welcoming our brothers and sisters who are made in the image of the Trinity with a heart full of love. This is the joy of the Christian marriage vocation.

The vocation of consecrated life and celibacy requires the ordained men and consecrated women to face worldly desires with a Christ-like heart, pursue the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven, and live out the Gospel’s values to witness justice and peace. They strive to live a life of peace and joy, with hope toward eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

It should be noted that celibacy does not necessarily mean consecration; neither is living alone always proof of complete dedication. Only when the ordained entrust their lives to the Heavenly Father and are willing to serve others does their solitary life become valuable, and their consecrated life meaningful. Therefore, every consecrated person should listen to the voice of all creation with prayerful and open hearts, discern God’s will, and continually respond with “Yes, I am!”

Discerning one’s vocation requires a strong faith community, a loving and supportive faith family, and an open and listening faith environment. Through prayer and gratitude, we discover God’s invitation and challenge, embrace this gift with hope, and give glory and praise to God’s holy name.

THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



The month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Most Sacred Heart includes acts of consecration and honor given to the image of the Sacred Heart, which is often depicted as a wounded heart encircled by thorns and radiating light.

The feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated on the Friday after the solemnity of Corpus Christi. This devotion gained popularity in the 17th century, particularly through the revelations of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

On June 29, 2025, the Apostleship of Prayer at St. Joseph's Church, as Sacred Heart devotees, celebrated the feast by having a procession of the image both in the morning and the afternoon. A solemn serenade was offered to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by a spiritual talk given by our kind and supportive Sr. Weronika Klebba, SSpS, who explained the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The day concluded with a consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, during which eighteen new promoters and five new members dedicated themselves to the Sacred Heart as an act of reparation, seeking to amend for offenses against God. This commitment calls for a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, deepening one's relationship with Him and fostering a spirit of devotion and adoration. All members also renewed their consecration. We consecrated ourselves to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, since it is our Lord Jesus Christ who encompasses our lives, actions, pains, and sufferings.

As we draw closer to the Heart of Jesus, let us be mindful of what stirs in our hearts and what helps us to remain close to His Heart. Let us honor the Sacred Heart together with our families, loving the Most Sacred Heart with all our heart, mind, and soul, and entrusting our families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We are grateful for the guidance and support of our beloved Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD, and Sr. Weronika Klebba, SSpS, for being with us on this special celebration.

This celebration focused our hearts on receiving and returning His love with gratitude—with all our heart, soul, and strength—that He may be glorified.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

BY: ROVELYN RONCAL (Apostleship of Prayer)



Bridging to Bear Witness to the Light



The 51st Anniversary of St. Joseph's Filipino Catholic Group was celebrated on the 15th of June, 2025, at Hon Wo Korean Restaurant in Causeway Bay. With a theme, "Bridging to Bear Witness to the Light," we reflect on our imperfections as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, boyfriends and girlfriends, husbands and wives, nephews and nieces, and friends. We don't always say the right things, and we're not the most handsome or beautiful men and women in the world, but that's okay. We love food. We have scars because we each have a story. Some people loved us; some don't. We've done good things and bad things. We go out without makeup, and many times we don't even fix our hair. We don't pretend to be someone we're not. We are who we are: proud, impulsive, a bit emotional, and even a little crazy. But we embrace our true selves.

We can love each other or not. And if we are loved, we do it with all our hearts. The same goes for serving God; we are not perfect servants, but we strive to be His messengers. We share the truth and act as a positive light for others. Brothers and sisters, may we continue to share His good news and guide others toward understanding, faith, and a more positive path following Jesus.

Happy 51st Anniversary, FCG! There are many more blessed years to come. Our sincerest gratitude goes to all our members and guests, especially Fr. Paul, Fr. Joseph, Sr. Vera, Sr. Weronika, Shiela Cajudo, Ma. Fe Cabangal, Joel Aledia, Daisy Pardilla, and Ph Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel Jr. Thank you so much for coming. Also, special thanks to Emily O'Callaghan for your support. On behalf of FCG, along with our coordinator Lanie Trumata, thank you so much, everyone. May God continue to give us the strength to bear witness to the light and to be a bridge through which many people may come to Him.

Article written by: Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)



MY FIRST SOLEMNITY CELEBRATIONS WITH MY AP FAMILY



Joining the Apostleship of Prayer is my calling that brings happiness and fulfillment in my life as I dedicate myself in service to God, to His people, and St. Joseph's Church. Recently, for the first time, I experienced the celebrations of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as an AP community member.

This feast honors the physical heart of Jesus Christ as a symbol of His boundless and passionate love for humanity. On this occasion, the faithful and believers pray for everyone to have a heart like Jesus as we say, "Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine."

This successful event was made possible by the cooperation and unity of each and every member of the Apostleship of Prayer Community. Indeed, there is strength in unity.

We are always praying and hoping that we will be united through our devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this devotion, we aspire to be good apostles of Jesus, whose main objective is to pray for the betterment of the whole world. May our hearts be filled with love and compassion like the Heart of Jesus. Thank you, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, for leading me to this community. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

By: Jhonna May Tasin (Apostleship of Prayer)

The Sacred Heart: A Well of Infinite Compassion

My drawing of "The Last Supper" illustrates a pivotal moment of connection and reflection. Each figure embodies the principles of mercy and hope, showcasing the power of compassion in human interactions. As Jesus breaks bread with his disciples, he emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and unity, reminding us that our work should be guided by kindness. This moment speaks to the possibility of reconciliation and understanding, inspiring us to approach our own endeavors with a similar spirit. By embodying mercy in our actions and nurturing hope in our communities, we can create lasting positive change. The Hope for a better future is a palatable in this sacred gathering, reminding us that through empathy and collaboration, we can build more harmonious world.

To God be all the glory.

Art by Parishioner Ms. Jane Alaveran



REMEMBER: GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do” (Colossians 3:12-13).

Forgiving others is a sign that we have been forgiven by God and we realize it. Forgiveness encourages us to think of how much God loves us. Forgiving is also a process of letting go of resentment and anger towards those who have wronged us, even if they don’t deserve it. How can we forgive someone who once hurt us? We may allow ourselves to experience the feelings we need to go through, but better not to cling to them; just let them go! Let us focus on the good things we have experienced, however small they may be compared to the wrongs that someone has done to us.

Forgiveness also means “to let go or release.” Forgiveness has four stages: hate, hurt, heal, and come together. Hating is an important and often necessary stage of forgiveness; it often looks like anger towards another person. Being hurt is the feeling of a broken heart, which sometimes gives us pain, an ache of emptiness in the center of our chest. But no heartbreak lasts forever if we are willing to do the deep work of forgiveness. Healing occurs when we can look at others with compassion and empathy. After we do the deep work of forgiveness, we can come together.

Forgiveness means different things to different people, but in general, it involves an intentional decision to let go of resentment and anger. Working on forgiveness leads to greater inner freedom.

“We must not allow a root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts” (Heb. 12:15).

Article by: Margaretta Pascual (Apostleship of Prayer)



Answering God's Call

Way back in 2003, while queuing up at St. Joseph's Church car park waiting for the next Mass, I heard the Apostleship of Prayer Community announce that they were in need of ushers for the Mass services and very much welcomed those who were willing to join the group and serve. Without hesitation, I stood up to answer that call; I received instant blessings as it so happened there were new joiners scheduled for that same day. Without knowing what kind of community I was joining, I convinced myself this was my opportunity to serve. I had just arrived in Hong Kong a few months before that, and I was really looking for a place of comfort and a place to stay during my off days. My heart was longing to serve God in any way I could be of service. My firm foundation as a Catholic led me on this path. After a few months of searching for a Catholic Church, God's blessings guided my feet to St. Joseph's Church, where I heard my calling. I was called to serve and contribute to the Apostleship of Prayer Community.

For more than two decades, I realized that God's call is powerful. Being in the community means managing the obstacles that always come along the way. Dealing with different people can sometimes be quite exhausting. But we have to keep in mind Ephesians 4:1, which says "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called." St. Paul emphasized that in answering the call of God, we are to live a life that reflects the values and character of Christ. It is not so easy, and we need to always remind ourselves to serve with humility and unity with others. God's calling, with the many challenges, always requires obedience and a willingness to follow His guidance. Trusting God's plan and provision always eases the pains endured in pursuing our calling to serve. We must remain faithful by praying constantly and be obedient to the Holy Spirit. God's call is His initiative to bring people to Christ and to participate in His redemptive work.

I am thankful to God for this gift of service to which He has called me. Answering God's call brings us all hope, joy, fulfillment, and the opportunity to participate in His divine plan.

To God Be the Greater Glory!

Article by: Ma. Fe Cabangal (Apostleship of Prayer)



天主賜良緣 結婚在若堂





疫情前聖若瑟堂並沒有專責婚禮的義工小組，直到現任婚禮小組組長陳文昆 (Raymond) 看到需求向談神父提出後，加上一班大聖若瑟歌詠團和其他中文團體的義工支持下，本堂才正式設立婚禮小組，協助有意在本堂結婚的情侶籌備他們的人生大事。港島區很多聖堂都可以舉行婚禮，比較廣為人知的是堅道的主教座堂和跑馬地的聖瑪加利大堂，而聖若瑟堂的一些特色更能吸引即將結婚的新人。

聖若瑟堂可以提供的特點可以說獨一無二的，首先，聖堂的設計讓幾十人的來賓已經可以讓整個氣氛熱鬧起來。聖堂停車場的 Lower Hall 可以作為儀式後的酒會場地，讓不能出席晚宴的來賓也可以感受到喜慶氣氛。堂區備有拍照用的拱形裝飾花及跪凳花，可以省去新人不少裝飾聖堂的開支。準備結婚的情侶將獲得一次在聖堂綵排的機會，而堂區收費也相對經濟。其實，大部分聖堂都沒有專門的婚禮小組，而本堂區的婚禮小組會提供不同的婚禮建議，更會幫忙安排神父、輔祭、禮儀人員、琴師和歌詠團，讓人生盛事增添姿彩。

堂區也歡迎希望補辦婚禮或想在主前重申婚約盟誓的夫婦，也會為低收入的情侶和旅港生活的外籍傭工提供豁免收費的優惠，而且聖堂更保存了一套婚紗，可以借給有需要的新娘。有意在本堂舉行婚禮的教友，歡迎向堂區辦公室查詢。





Baptism / Confirmation



June 28 Simone Yu
July 3 Ezekiel Lirio



July 19 Oliver Lucas Vitto Fabay

St. Joseph's Church, 37 Garden Road



BIBLE VERSES

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. (Genesis 1:26)

聖經金句

創1:26 天主說：「讓我們照我們的肖像，按我們的模樣造人，叫他管理海中的魚、天空的飛鳥、牲畜、各種野獸、在地上爬行的各種爬蟲。」

歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 9月主題：受造界的管家
- 2) 字數：不超 650字
- 3) 格式：Word file
- 4) 相片：若文章附相片，上限3張，必須屬於作者的相片(JPG), 上限 3.5MB。
- 5) 截止日期：8/09/2025
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「9月投稿」郵寄到 stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
- 7) 通訊組保留任何修改及刊登權利



**Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for the church newsletter.
Please take note of the following guidelines:**

- 1) Theme for Sept: **Stewards of Creation**
- 2) Word limit: Not more than 650 words
- 3) Form: Word file
- 4) Photo: 1-3 pictures only, with a maximum size of 3.5MB
- 5) Deadline **Sept 09, 2025**
- 6) Email: Please submit the article to stjosephs.hk@gmail.com with the subject line 'Article for Sept 2025.'
- 7) All rights are reserved by the church, including the selection of articles, photos, and any necessary adjustments.

In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

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|---------|-----------------------|
| June 30 | Alain Spaey |
| July 9 | Roy Kit Chong Lie |
| July 12 | Lam Chi Hung Paulus |
| July 16 | Rita Pang Tuen Suk |
| July 17 | Yung, Wai Lan Theresa |
| July 18 | Peggie Tong |

希望的召喚

王守照 神父



聖召，是一份天主撒播在我們心田的珍貴禮物；是一個要我們走出自我、踏上愛與服務旅程的召叫。教會裡的每個召叫，無論是平信徒、聖職人員或度獻身生活者，都是天主賜給這世界和祂每個兒女希望的標記。

—**教宗方濟各：第62屆世界聖召祈禱日文告《懷著希望的朝聖者：生命的禮物》**

在我們慶祝禧年·希望的朝聖者之餘，我們也將目光定格在我們的聖召上。無論何種的召叫，或者任何形式的答復，都來至於希望的召喚，因為我們的召叫與希望同行。在天主救恩計劃中，我們的召叫與希望並存。因著天主聖三對我們的召叫，我們帶著對天主的信賴和交託，成為一名希望的朝聖者。

無論當下我們經歷的是婚姻生活，還是天主特選的獻身生活，或者還在分辨自己聖召的生活，都是我們分享天主聖愛的途徑和方式，也是我們走向永生的朝聖開始。

“希望”是聖召的啟蒙，也是每個聖召的鑰匙，因為希望是對未來的期許和盼望，也是建立於當下生活的經驗和感受。只有我們經驗到天主，與耶穌相遇的那一刻，我們的聖召才會被觸動，變得有渴望，帶著希望去行動。這便是我們的信仰，因為我們的信仰讓我們可以觸碰到耶穌基督。在我們的生活中，懷著不蒙羞的望德去觸碰耶穌的生命，將我們的服務與奉獻變得圓滿。因為任何一種生活的選擇都屬於基督，因為只有基督才有永生，也只有祂是我們的道路、真理、和生命。

婚姻聖召帶給我們的不僅是生命傳遞的責任，更是夫妻二人彼此鼓勵，相互扶持的活出基督價值的生活方式，在彼此身上尋到基督的臨在，在生兒育女的生活中心，分享、傳遞基督的生命，這才是希望的朝聖者。縱使我們的生活經歷著千變萬化的挑戰，或者自私欲望的壓力與誘惑，我們都應該活在當下，以一個望德之心去朝拜聖體櫃中的耶穌基督，懷著希望之心去參與每一個恩聖祭的奉獻，帶著愛德之心去宣講和迎接每一個以天主聖三為肖像的弟兄姊妹，這才是基督徒婚姻聖召的喜樂之源。

獻身的聖召和獨身的生活，要求以一顆基督的心懷去面對這個世俗慾望的世界，以天國的福樂為生命的追求，用福音的價值生活去見證正義與和平，在平安與喜樂的生活姿態中，帶著希望朝向天國聖善的生活。

當然，獨身並不代表獻身，過著獨居的生活也不能證明完全的獻身生活，只有我們願意將自己的生活交托在天父手中，並願意服務他人，我們的獨居生活才變得有價值，我們的獻身生活才變得有意義。所以，每一位獻身者都應該是以祈禱、開放的心去聆聽萬物的聲音，好能分辨天主的旨意和以不斷更新的方式答復：我願意！

分辨聖召的生活，需要一個堅強的信仰團體、一個友愛互助的信仰群體、一個開放、聆聽的信仰家庭，並在不斷祈禱、感恩中，去發現天主的邀請和挑戰，滿懷希望地去接受這份禮物，因我們的生命只為光榮、讚美天主的聖名。

