St. Joseph's Church

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Oct, 2026



Evangelizers of Christ

Fr Joseph Tan Leitao SVD



When many people hear the word "evangelization," they may think it is only the work of priests, sisters, or missionaries. In fact, every Christian can become an evangelizer of Christ.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said to His disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) This message was not only for the apostles. It is also a mission for every Christian today.

Evangelization does not always mean speaking many great words. It means helping others see Christ through our daily life, through love, gentleness, and good actions. Jesus also said: "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) If we live our faith in daily life, we can be like a small light, shining for the people around us.

An evangelizer of Christ must first stay close to the Lord. We cannot give others the love we do not have. Jesus said: "Remain in me, as I remain in you." (John 15:4) When we pray, attend Mass, and receive the Holy Eucharist, our hearts are slowly changed by the love of God. When Christ and the spirit of Christ are in our hearts, we become more patient in our words and actions. We also learn to care for others more.

The most important part of evangelization is not only to speak, but also to live the Gospel. Saint James reminds us: "Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:17) So, at home, we can complain less and understand more. At school or at work, we can be honest and responsible and not hurt others. When we meet someone who is lonely or sad, we can stay with that person and listen. These small things are also evangelization.

There is a small story in the Church about St. Francis of Assisi. One day, he took a brother with him into the city to "preach the Gospel." The brother thought they would preach many teachings to the people. But Francis only helped the poor, greeted people, and comforted the sick.

When they were going home, the brother asked, "Were we not going to preach the Gospel?" Francis answered, "Everything we did today was preaching the Gospel." This story reminds us of that actions of charity are themselves the Gospel. This also follows the words of Jesus: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Another story is about St. Mother Teresa. She cared for the poorest, the loneliest, and the dying in Calcutta, India. Someone once asked her, "Can what you do really change the world?" Her answer meant this: "We cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

Mother Teresa used her hands to care for the sick. She used her smile to comfort those who suffered. She did not use many beautiful words, but she helped countless people see the love of Christ. Saint John also says: "Let us love not in word or speech but in deeds and truth." (1 John 3:18)

There is also a simple story from daily life. A young man had been away from the Church for a long time. One day, he had great pressure at work and felt incredibly sad. A Catholic co-worker did not blame him. He did not quickly tell him to return to church. Instead, he cared for him every day, prayed for him, sometimes ate with him, and listened to him.

After some time, the young man was touched by this sincere care. He asked, "Why do you always have so much peace?" The Catholic co-worker answered, "Because I believe Jesus is always with me." Later, the young man slowly returned to the Church. This is evangelization in daily life. Saint Paul also encourages us: "Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23)

Therefore, an evangelizer of Christ is not a perfect person. An evangelizer is a person who is willing to let Christ use him or her. We may not preach well. We may not do great things. However, if we are willing to love, forgive, pray, and accompany others, God can work through us.

Jesus comforts us with these words: "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) With the Lord walking with us, we need not be afraid.

May we all become humble evangelizers in our daily life, especially in our St. Joseph Church. With gentle words, sincere smiles, and patient companionship, may we bring the love of Christ to the people around us and to our parish community.

True evangelization means letting others see Jesus through us. St Paul says: "Yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) This is the most beautiful witness of every evangelizer of Christ. It will also help build our St. Joseph Church into a true "home away from home."

A Milestone of Faith: 105 years of serving Christ with Mary

The Legion of Mary marked its 105th Anniversary on September 7, 2026. It is a worldwide Catholic lay organization established in Dublin, Ireland, on September 7, 1921, by Frank Duff together with a small group of laypeople. Recognized as an international association of the faithful with juridical personality, the Legion had its Statutes approved on March 27, 2014, by the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Its primary mission is to glorify God through the holiness of its members, attained through prayer and active cooperation in the Church's work under ecclesiastical guidance. The Legion requires no wealth or influence from its members, no remarkable feats or genius, nor extraordinary strength. Instead, it calls for unwavering faith, persistent dedication, unquenchable love, and steadfast discipline.

For over a century, growing from its humble beginnings in 1921, the Legion has spread across nations worldwide, fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Embodying her virtues stands as the core foundation of every Legionary's spiritual life and apostolic ministry.

Three venerable figures, whose causes for beatification have been officially opened by the Catholic Church, serve as the central patrons and role models of the Legion of Mary. Frank Duff dedicated his entire life to the lay apostolate and social outreach and participated in the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer. He is titled the Servant of God. Venerable Edel Quinn, a legendary Legion envoy to East Africa, established hundreds of local branches and praesidia across multiple countries while bravely battling advanced tuberculosis. Pope John Paul II declared her Venerable in recognition of her heroic virtues. Alfie Lambe, a devoted Legion missionary, served tirelessly across South America for six years, establishing and expanding the Legion's movement in five nations: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, and Bolivia, before passing away at a young age in Argentina. He is also titled the Servant of God.

In celebration of this remarkable milestone, the Legion of Mary holds nationwide commemorations across the globe. The Legion of Mary Hong Kong hosted a solemn bilingual Thanksgiving Mass on September 6, 2026. Organized by the Regia, the Mass was held at the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Caine Road. Cardinal Stephen Chow served as the main celebrant, joined by priests and deacons from various parishes. The celebration was attended by Legion members from Chinese, English, and Korean-speaking Curiae: Curia Annunciata, Curia Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Curia Regina Pacis Sinarum, Curia Mother of Mercy, Curia Queen of All Graces, Curia Assumpta, Curia Mother of the Church Macau, Curia Our Lady of Victories (Chinese), Curia Immaculata, Curia Rosarii, Curia Mystica, Curia Fidelis, Curia Spes (English), and Curia Queen of Divine Grace (Korean).

As the Legion of Mary celebrates 105 years of faithful service, it continues to uphold its timeless mission: drawing souls closer to Christ through Mary.

Ave Maria! Article By: Clemencia Balanay (Legion of Mary)







MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

Some people say, “Being religious or being a missionary does not make you a good person” — and they are right. To be religious means recognizing that we are not inherently good. Being religious is never about proving our own goodness; it is about being honest about our brokenness. No one is perfect, and every person carries their own flaws. As Scripture tells us, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23).

The saints never saw themselves as perfect. Instead, they saw their need for God more clearly than anyone else. Faith begins with hope and humility. We cease trusting in our own righteousness and start relying fully on God’s mercy. This is why we go to confession, why we pray, why we serve, and why we continually hope and strive to grow. We do these things not because we are worthy as His people, but because we desperately need His grace.

True missionaries of hope do not boast about being God’s servants. Instead, this calling humbles us and transforms us slowly from the inside out. As His missionary servants dwelling in our home away from home, may we continue to serve the Lord and His people wholeheartedly. May we embrace humility through selfless service here at SJC and in all our encounters with others, always acknowledging our complete trust and dependence on God’s abundant graces.

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







Missionaries of Hope Among All People



Missionaries of Hope among all people was the official theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Mission Day, which was celebrated on October 19, 2025. The theme calls on all baptized Christians to act as messengers and builders of Hope in a divided and crisis-ridden world, following Christ's example.

The mission of the disciples and the church as a whole is to continue the mission of Christ in the Holy Spirit; a mission born of love, lived in love, and leading to love (Pope Leo XIV).

Who is a missionary? In one sense, every Christian is a missionary because God sends them to tell and teach others about His greatness and goodness. In another sense, there are various missionary callings that are set apart for different durations, distances, difficulties, and types of work. A missionary is sent by Jesus to go out to share the gospel and grow disciples. Go — where you are going to share the gospel. Grow — who you are teaching about Jesus.

Missions are inseparable from the churches. Missions are through the churches. Missions are the work of the churches. Missionaries are the people of the church. To describe the missionary in one word: we are committed. We are committed to Jesus Christ as the ultimate authority. We remain fully committed to the inerrancy of Scripture and the authority of the Word of God. Multiplying disciples is the command that Jesus gave us, and we will not be distracted by buildings, programs, or anything else.

Ephesians 2:10 — For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

As a missionary of the church, we have purpose in obedience to Jesus Christ our Lord. We are committed to being holy people of God in the world and to building His church by worldwide evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication churches, all to the glory of God. As missionaries of the church, we realize that we have a unique identity. Others may share in one or more of our traits, but we believe the combination of the following traits expresses our unique identity: core values, purpose, roots, beliefs, and relationships. We believe in one God, The Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the creator and sustainer of all things.

Prepared by:

Myrna G. Vallanta (Filipino Prayer Group)

Prayer for Missionaries of Hope

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble and grateful hearts. We acknowledge that we are weak and imperfect, yet You call each one of us to be bearers of Your hope to all people. Thank You for Your unmerited grace that covers our flaws and turns our ordinary lives into instruments of Your love. Help us to walk in true humility, never trusting in our own goodness, but always relying on Your endless mercy.

Lord Jesus, You are our true and lasting hope. Teach us to live as Your missionary disciples in our parish and in our daily lives. Help us to speak kindly, serve selflessly, and encourage those around us, especially the lonely, the weary, and the discouraged. Let our faith not remain hidden, but shine gently through small acts of charity, compassion, and sincere fellowship, so that everyone we meet may encounter Your light through us.

Holy Spirit, guide and strengthen us each day. Continue to transform our hearts, that we may faithfully fulfill our calling to share hope among all people. Keep our parish community united in faith and love, and help us grow closer to You in prayer and service. May we always be willing witnesses of Your grace, bringing peace and hope to every soul we touch. Amen.



Prayer entry by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)

Sharing God's Hope Among All People

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Our Parish, our Family!!

As faithful members of St. Joseph's Church, Hong Kong, we are all called to be Missionaries of Hope Among All People. This beautiful calling reminds us that faith is never about personal perfection, but about allowing God's light and mercy to shine through our ordinary, imperfect lives.

Many of us mistakenly believe that serving God requires us to be flawless. Yet our journey of faith begins in honesty and humility. We recognize our weaknesses, our limitations, and our constant need for God's grace.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23–24).

This truth changes the way we serve. We do not minister out of pride or self-righteousness, but out of gratitude for the hope we have freely received. At our parish, hope comes alive in simple, heartfelt acts of love: a kind greeting after Mass, a prayer offered for others, a helping hand shared within our community, and patient support for fellow parishioners facing difficulties.

To be missionaries of hope is to walk humbly among God's people. It means listening with compassion, comforting the weary, encouraging the discouraged, and living our faith sincerely each day. We do not need grand gestures to witness for Christ. We simply need to allow God's hope to work through us, touching every person we encounter with gentleness and goodwill.

May we continually open our hearts to God's transforming grace. May our lives reflect the hope we hold in Christ, making our parish a warm, welcoming beacon of God's love for everyone we meet

Article by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)







On 30 August 2026, the vibrant community of St. Joseph's Church gathered in a spirit of unity and gratitude to mark the 50th birthday of our beloved Parish Priest, Fr. Joseph Tan. Organised by the Sowers Charismatic Community, this milestone occasion drew joyful, active participation from parish communities, families, friends and fellow parishioners.

This day was more than a celebration of fifty years of life. It honoured a faithful servant who has offered his hands in service, his heart in love, and his voice to proclaim the Word of God. The festivities opened with a heartfelt serenade by the Sowers Charismatic Community, featuring prayerful hymns, warm greetings and sincere good-wishes. As the music filled the space, volunteers and friends stepped forward to present gifts and flowers as tokens of our deep affection and appreciation. A faith-journey as meaningful as this golden birthday would not be complete without expressing how much Fr. Joseph means to all of us.

The joyful celebration proceeded with a special thanksgiving gathering, where a simple yet delicious spread of comfort food was lovingly prepared and shared by the various parish communities. The afternoon's highlight was a series of tributes from each group, as everyone took turns to share their love and gratitude. Amid the warm, relaxed atmosphere of shared fellowship, guests watched a slideshow of greetings and well-wishes from the many lives Fr. Joseph has touched.Fr. Joseph has re-defined what it means to shepherd a community. He does not merely lead us; he walks alongside us, always caring for the wellbeing and spiritual growth of every parishioner in his care. As Fr. Joseph reaches this golden milestone of 50 years, the fruits of his ministry are clearly evident all around us.

We thank you, Fr. Joseph, for your tireless sacrifice, steady guidance and visionary leadership. May God bless you abundantly, and grant you good health, joy, peace and love in the years ahead.

Collaborated article by: Jomelie Basa, Mary Ann Marasigan and Azenith Dafun (SOWERS)

A JOURNEY OF FAITH:

Celebrating 50 Years of Grace, Leadership, and Devotion



















堂區中文團體齊慶生
談神父敬酒寄語祝福

九月一日晚上堂區中文團體數十位成員齊聚一堂，為主任司鐸談雷濤神父慶祝生日。活動不單止是每年一聚的慶生，更是一場智慧人生與信仰的核心交流。

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壽宴伊始，陳神父率眾祈禱，仰賴上主賜福，帶領會眾祈禱，為談神父送上最真摯祝福，同時亦揭開晚宴序幕。席間珍饈羅列，美酒盈樽，觥籌交錯，笑語喧闐，以兩文三語譜出音韻，唱和壽誕之曲，音律鏗鏘，滿座拊掌，歡聲雷動。

酒過三巡，大家準備影大合照。鏡頭前，談神父笑得特別燦爛，教友都爭住靠近，想留住珍貴一刻。之後切蛋糕環節——一個精心挑選的生日蛋糕，上面寫住祝福字句，談神父親手切開，象徵美好新開始。

談神父接受大家祝福，不忘為全體送上窩心祝願：「食好瞓好，聽朝心情好好！」簡單又實在的說話，令在場每位都感到溫暖，亦正正係談神父一向作風——永遠將大家放第一位。

歡樂時光過得特別快，轉眼間壽宴已經接近尾聲。大家帶住依依不捨心情再度高歌，歌聲中充滿感恩同喜悅。離別依依，個個都希望可以繼續同談神父一齊慶祝。

今晚生日宴充滿愛同感恩。談神父祝福再坐諸位，我們用心回報敬愛談神父：生日快樂！願主恩與您同在，健康喜樂，並繼續帶領信仰之道路。智慧日增，主佑平安！






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NEWSLETTER

Dear Saint Joseph Family,

We invite you to contribute to our upcoming newsletter! Each month, we will explore a unique theme that encourages reflection and engagement. Your voices and experiences are vital to our community, and we would love to hear your thoughts on any of the following topics:

November: Called to Holiness Today
被召而追求聖潔
December: Emmanuel – God Is With Us
厄瑪奴耳- 天主與我們同在
January 2027
Light to the Nations 萬民之光
February
Love in Mercy and Prayer 慈悲與祈禱中的愛
Spring: Newness of Life 春天：生命的更新
March
Saint Joseph, Our Protector 聖若瑟：我們的守護者

Please send all submissions to our official newsletter email:

stjosephs.hk@gmail.com

We eagerly look forward to your heartfelt contributions and thoughtful insights!

Submission Guidelines:

Entries should be submitted one month prior to the chosen month's theme publication, preferably on the 7th of each month. This allows the Parish Newsletter team sufficient time to process the articles.

We look forward to your contributions and insights!

Blessings,
Arlene Loable Phoda (Parish Newsletter Editor-in-Chief)



BIBLE VERSES

You are my only hope. (Psalm 39:8)

聖經金句

我的希望寄托在你的身上! (詠38:8)

In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

2026-09-03	Margarita Lee
2026-09-04	Joseph Ho
2026-09-05	Benedict Lee
2026-09-07	Florence Lee
2026-09-12	Joseph Chan
2026-09-14	Mary Fong
2026-09-22	Mary Tong
2026-09-28	Felipe Ferre Oponda

神師訓語

基督的福傳者

談雷濤神父. SVD



很多人一聽到「福傳」，就覺得那是神父、修女或傳教士的事。其實，每一位基督徒都可以成為基督的福傳者。耶穌升天前對門徒說：「你們往普天下去，向一切受造物宣傳福音。」(谷 16:15) 這句話不只是給宗徒，也是給今天每一位基督徒的使命。

福傳不一定是講很多大道理，而是在每天的生活中，用愛、溫柔和善行讓別人看見基督。耶穌也說：「你們是世界的光。」(瑪 5:14) 如果我們願意在生活中活出信仰，就像一盞小燈，照亮身邊的人。

基督的福傳者，首先要常常親近主。因為我們不能把自己沒有的愛給別人。耶穌說：「你們住在我內，我也住在你們內。」(若 15:4) 如果我們願意祈禱、參與彌撒、領受聖體，心就會慢慢被天主的愛改變。當我們心中有基督，和基督的精神。說話和做事就會比較有耐心，也比較懂得關心別人。

福傳最重要的，不只是「說」，更是「活出來」。聖雅各伯宗徒提醒我們：「信德若沒有行為，自身便是死的。」(雅 2:17) 所以，在家裡，我們可以少一點抱怨，多一點體諒；在學校或工作中，我們可以誠實負責，不傷害別人；遇到孤單或難過的人，我們可以陪伴他、聽他說話。這些小事，都是福傳。

教會裡有一個關於聖方濟各亞西西的小故事。有一次，他帶著一位弟兄到城裡去「宣講福音」。那位弟兄以為他們要講很多道理，結果方濟各只是幫助窮人、問候路人、安慰病人。回去時，弟兄問：「我們不是要宣講福音嗎？」方濟各回答：「我們今天所做的一切，就是宣講福音。」這個故事提醒我們：愛德的行動本身就是福音，也正符合耶穌的話：「凡你們對我這些最小兄弟中的一個所做的，就是對我做的。」(瑪 25:40)

另一個故事是關於聖女德蘭修女。她在印度加爾各答照顧最貧窮、最孤單、快要死亡的人。有人問她：「妳這樣做，能改變世界嗎？」她回答的大意是：「我們不能做大事，只能用大愛做小事。」德蘭修女用自己的雙手照顧病人，用微笑安慰受苦的人。她沒有用很多華麗的話語，卻讓無數人看見基督的愛。聖若望也說：「我們愛，不可只用言語，也不可只用口舌，而要用行動和事實。」(若一 3:18)

還有一個簡單的小故事。有一位年輕人曾經離開教會很久。有一天，他在工作上遇到很大的壓力，心情非常低落。一位教友同事沒有責備他，也沒有急著勸他回教堂，只是每天關心他，為他祈禱，偶爾陪他吃飯、聽他說話。過了一段時間，這位年輕人被這份真誠感動，主動問：「你為什麼總是這麼有平安？」那位教友回答：「因為我相信耶穌一直陪著我。」後來，這位年輕人慢慢重新回到教會。這就是生活中的福傳。聖保祿也勸勉我們：「你們無論作什麼，都要從心裡去作，如同是為主。」(哥 3:23)

所以，基督的福傳者不是完美的人，而是願意讓基督使用的人。也許我們不會講道，也沒有做偉大的事，但只要我們願意愛人、寬恕、祈禱、陪伴，天主就能透過我們工作。耶穌安慰我們說：「看！我同你們天天在一起，直到今世的終結。」(瑪 28:20) 有主同行，我們就不用害怕。

願我們都在每天的生活中，在我們聖若瑟堂，成為小小的福傳者。用一句溫柔的話、一個真誠的微笑、一份耐心的陪伴，把基督的愛帶給身邊和堂區的人。因為真正的福傳，就是讓別人從我們身上，看見耶穌。聖保祿說：「我生活已不是我生活，而是基督在我內生活。」(迦 2:20) 這正是每一位基督福傳者最美的生命見證。也將建立我們聖若瑟堂的「家外之家」。