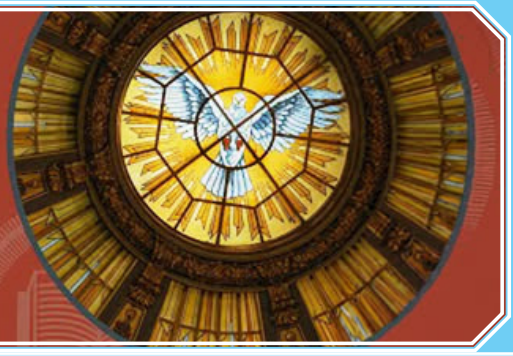
St. Joseph's Church

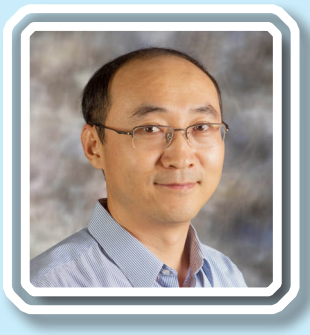
HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Nov, 2026

The Holiness of God and His Calling in Our Everyday lives



Enlightening Teaching From Our Parish Priest / 2026



Called to Holiness

Fr Paul Chen



As we enter the month of November, the Church invites us to remember all the saints and souls who have gone before us. It is a month that begins with the great Solemnity of All Saints, a day that reminds us of our ultimate destination. But it also presents us with a profound challenge: the call to holiness.

Often, when we hear the word "holiness," we might be tempted to think of it as something reserved for the saints, for those in monasteries and convents, and for the priests, the nuns, the and great theologians. Actually, holiness is not an impossible ideal; it is a vocation for every one of us. We are all called to holiness.

The great secret of the saints is that they did not become holy by doing extraordinary things all the time. They became holy by doing ordinary things with extraordinary love. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) once said, "Holiness is not the luxury of a few. It is a simple duty for you and for me." She found holiness in the slums of Calcutta, but she also insisted that you can find it in your own home. Holiness is found in the daily duties of your life.

For the parent: Holiness is found in the sleepless nights, in the patience required to answer the same question for the hundredth time, and in the sacrifice of putting your children's needs before your own. For the worker: Holiness is found in the integrity you show when no one is watching, in the diligence you put into a task, and in the charity, you extend to a difficult coworker. For the student: Holiness is found in the discipline of study and in the courage to stand up for your faith in a secular environment. For the retired: Holiness is found in the intercessory prayer offered for the world and in the wisdom shared with the younger generation.

To be holy means to be united with Christ. And Christ is found in the present moment. If we want to be holy, we must stop waiting for the "perfect time" to start. We must start today and now. We must sanctify our daily routines.

In the month of November, we can start our day with a simple offering: "Lord, I offer you this day. Help me to love as you love." We all have crosses in our lives such as annoyances, illnesses, relationship struggles and etc. We offer them up. The saints understood that suffering, united with Christ, becomes a source of grace.

As we pray for our beloved dead this month, we are reminded that we do not walk this path alone. The saints in heaven are cheering us on. They are proof that it is possible. They were human just like us, with tempers, fears, and weaknesses, but they allowed God's grace to transform them.

Let us strive for that same transformation. Let us not settle for a mediocre Christian life. Let us live for the holiness that we all are called.





Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Filipino Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

On this Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I write this letter to you as the parish priest of St. Joseph's Church, and also as a member of your spiritual family. No matter how long you have been here, and no matter where you are in your journey of faith, I want to say to you sincerely: St. Joseph's Church is your home, and the Church always welcomes you.

I know that many of you left your homeland for the sake of your families, your work, and your future. You carry homesickness in your hearts and many burdens on your shoulders. Often, you quietly bear many difficulties. At times, you may feel lonely, tired, or even feel that no one truly understands you. But please believe this: the Lord Jesus knows your hardships and sees your tears. He says to us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

So, with all my heart, I invite you: come back to the Church, draw closer to God, and join this parish family.

If you have not yet been baptized and are still searching for God and learning about the faith, please do not be afraid. Do not think that you are far from the Church. The journey of faith often begins with a small curiosity, a simple prayer, or one Mass. Jesus once said to His disciples, "Come, and you will see." (John 1:39) Today, He says the same to you. You are welcome to join the catechism class, attend Sunday Mass, and take part in community gatherings. Step by step, you will come to know Jesus and discover that God has always loved you.

If you have already been baptized, but have not prayed for a long time, have not attended Mass regularly, have not gone to confession, or have had little formation in the faith, please do not feel ashamed, and do not be afraid to return. God is not a harsh master who only blames us. He is the loving Father who waits for His children to come home. Like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, He is always watching and waiting. As soon as His child comes back, He opens His arms and welcomes him. (Luke 15:11–32) The Church is not for perfect people; it is for all who are willing to begin again.

If you already have a regular life of faith, I invite you to take one more step: bring the gifts God has given you into the parish community. Some of you can sing. Some are good at serving. Some know how to care for newcomers. Some can comfort others with a smile. St. Paul says, "You are Christ's body, and individually parts of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27) Each person is important, and every act of love can help build up the Church.

At St. Joseph's Church, there are nine Filipino groups. In this booklet, their names, spirit, and service are introduced one by one. Please read it slowly, as if you are getting to know the different community of your own home. See which group may help you grow in faith and ask where God may be inviting you to pray, serve, and share your life.

Dear brothers and sisters, joining a group is not meant to add another burden. It is a way to find companions on the journey. It is not just another task to do; it is a way to find another home while living far from home. When we pray together, serve together, and celebrate Mass together, we are no longer scattered individuals. We become one family in Christ.

May St. Joseph protect your families, your work, and your journey of faith. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, with her motherly love, accompany you and lead you always to her Son, Jesus.

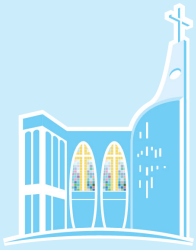
St. Joseph's Church welcomes you home! With blessings in Christ!

Your little brother in the Lord

Fr. Joseph Tan Leitao, SVD

Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church (Garden Road)

September 8, 2026 (Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)



聖母誕辰慶日



親愛的菲律賓弟兄姊妹們：願主耶穌基督的平安常與你們同在！

在聖母誕辰慶日這一天，我以聖若瑟堂主任司鐸的身份，也像家人一樣，寫這封信給你們。無論你來到這裡多久，無論你現在的信仰狀況如何，我都願意真誠地對你說：聖若瑟堂是你的家，教會永遠歡迎你。

我知道，許多菲律賓弟兄姊妹為了家庭、工作和未來，離開熟悉的家鄉，來到這裡生活。你們把思念藏在心裡，把辛勞放在肩上，常常默默承擔許多不容易。也許有時候，你會感到孤單、疲倦，甚至覺得沒有人真正明白你。但請相信，主耶穌知道你的辛苦，也看見你的眼淚。祂親自邀請我們說：「凡勞苦和負重擔的，你們都到我跟前來，我要使你們安息。」（瑪 11:28）

所以，我誠心邀請你們：回到教會，走近天主，加入堂區這個大家庭。

如果你還沒有領洗，正在尋找天主、認識信仰，請不要害怕，也不要覺得自己離教會很遠。信仰的道路，常常是從一個小小的好奇、一句祈禱、一場彌撒開始的。耶穌曾對門徒說：「你們來看看吧。」（若　1:39）今天，祂也這樣邀請你。你可以參加慕道班、主日彌撒和團體聚會，慢慢認識耶穌，也慢慢發現天主一直愛著你。

如果你已經領洗，卻很久沒有祈禱、參與彌撒、辦告解，或接受信仰培育，也請你不要羞愧，更不要害怕回來。天主不是嚴厲責備人的主人，而是等待子女回家的慈父。就像福音中浪子的父親一樣，祂一直站在路口等候，只要孩子願意回家，祂便張開雙臂迎接（參閱　路 15:11-32）。教會不是只屬於完美的人，而是屬於願意重新開始的人。

如果你已經有穩定的信仰生活，我也願意邀請你多走一步：把天主給你的恩賜，帶到堂區團體中。有人會唱歌，有人善於服務，有人懂得照顧新朋友，有人能用笑容安慰別人。聖保祿說：「你們便是基督的身體，各自都是肢體。」（格前　12:27）每一個人都重要，每一份愛都能建設教會。

聖若瑟堂有九個菲律賓團體。在這本小冊子裡，已經一一介紹了它們的名稱、精神和服務對象。請你像認識家中的不同房間一樣，慢慢閱讀，看看哪一個團體最能陪伴你成長，也看看天主邀請你在哪裡祈禱、服務和分享生命。

親愛的弟兄姊妹，加入團體不是增加負擔，而是找到同行的人；不是多一件工作，而是在異鄉中多一個家。當我們一起祈禱、一起服務、一起參與彌撒時，我們就不再只是分散的人，而是在基督內的一家人。

願聖若瑟保護你們的家庭、工作和信仰旅程；願聖母瑪利亞以母親的愛陪伴你們，把你們帶到她的聖子耶穌面前。

聖若瑟堂歡迎你們回家！　　在基督內祝福你們！

主內小弟兄

聖若瑟堂主任司鐸

談雷濤神父 SVD

2026年

聖母誕辰慶日

Prayer for Missionaries of Hope

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.

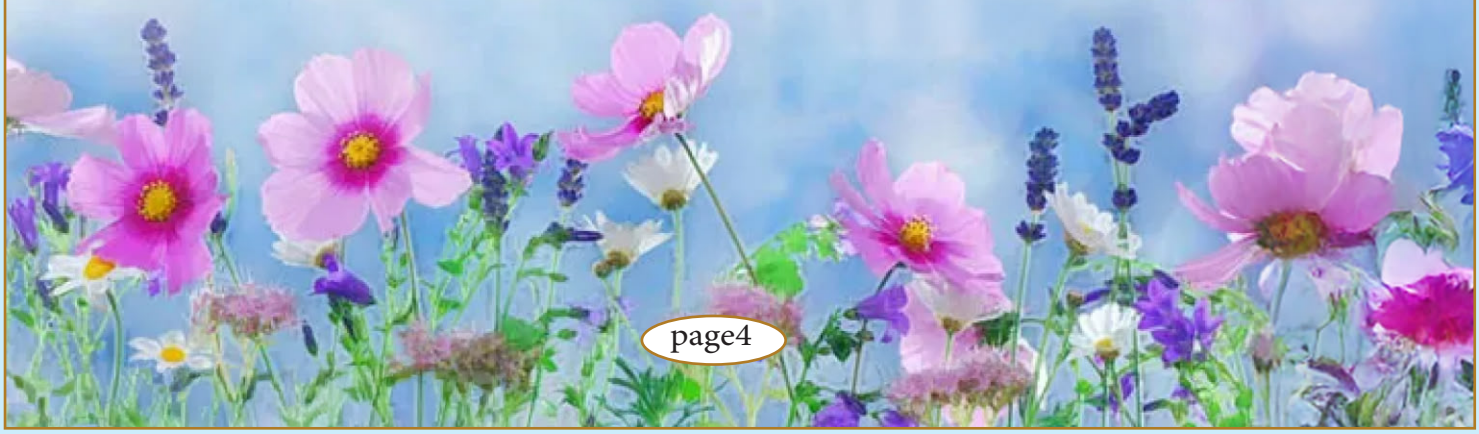
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23–24).

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.

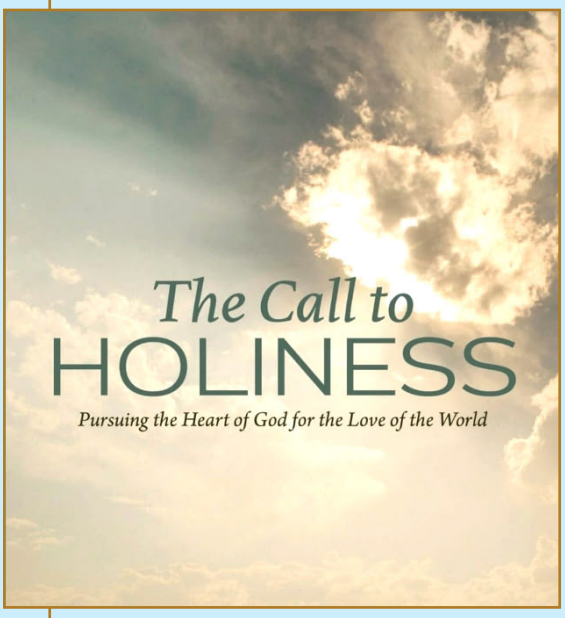
To be missionaries of hope is to walk humbly among God's people. It means listening with compassion, comforting the weary, encouraging the discouraged, and living our faith sincerely each day. We do not need grand gestures to witness for Christ. We simply need to allow God's hope to work through us,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



Called to Holiness Today



The call to holiness is an everyday invitation for all believers: to live in love, grow in grace, and bear faithful witness through ordinary daily life. Holiness does not require religious vows or personal perfection. It simply calls each one of us to walk our unique journey and reflect Christ's kindness right where we are.

True everyday holiness is not found in dramatic spiritual acts or flawless living. Instead, it consists of offering our ordinary, mundane tasks with extraordinary love, integrity, and mindful faith. It allows our inner Christian values to shape our speech, reactions, and everyday choices. When we live holily for the Lord, even simple daily living becomes sacred. This holy way of life draws us closer to God and fosters deeper, happier communion with Him and with one another.

The call to holiness invites us to pursue the heart of God out of love for the world. It reveals how God's holiness unfolds within the greater story of His self-revelation, written in Scripture and lived out in our daily lives.

1 Peter 1:15–16

Holiness does not mean immediate, perfect virtue. Rather, it means choosing daily cooperation with God's transforming grace. The saints walked this path not as flawless people, but as faithful men and women who allowed God's mercy and grace to turn their weaknesses into spiritual strength. Likewise, we are all called to be saints. We grow holy through consistent daily prayer, frequent participation in the sacraments, and trusting faith that God accomplishes great things through our small, obedient "yes."

Even the simplest prayer—such as "Come, Holy Spirit"—invites God to dwell deeply in our day. Prayer is intimate friendship with God. Every prayerful moment disposes our hearts toward grace, sharpens our eyes to recognize God's presence, and deepens our longing for holiness. When we make prayer the steady rhythm of our days, we imitate the saints and fully open ourselves to God's transformative love. In this daily encounter with the Lord, we discover our true purpose: to grow into sainthood one faithful step at a time.

Carving out intentional moments of prayer each day—whether a quiet morning offering, the gentle rhythm of the Holy Rosary, or brief conversations with Jesus amid daily duties—turns ordinary moments into extraordinary grace. As the Catechism teaches, prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God. This spiritual elevation sanctifies every action we take, reminding us that holiness is never achieved by human effort alone, but by God working within us.

How, then, do we respond to God's call to holiness?

First, confess. Humbly acknowledge before God that we are sinners. Admit our lack of holiness and our constant need for Christ, our Savior.

Second, repent. Turn away from sinful habits and worldly ways. Sincerely tell God that we want to live differently and ask for His grace to change our hearts and lives.

Third, commit. Renew your personal commitment to God and Christ. Re-dedicate yourself wholeheartedly to a life of intentional holiness, trusting God to sustain and perfect your faith journey.

Prepared by:
Myrna G. Vallanta (Filipino Prayer Group)

St. Joseph's Church– Family Day at Big Wave Beach (September 26, 2026)



Lfting while ball picking (AP)



Message relay (Sowers)



Paper cups relay using balloons (LOM)



Longest line (FPG)





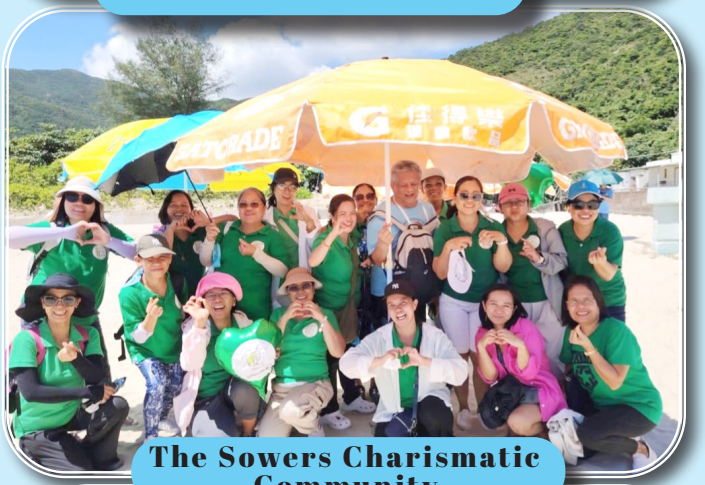
Family Day



Filipino Prayer Group



Legion of Mary



The Sowers Charismatic Community



Apostleship of Prayer



Black Nazarene Group



Filipino Catholic Group

Happy Golden Years, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD



I have a dream, a song to sing
To help me cope with anything
If you see the wonder of a fairy tale
You can take the future even if you fail
I believe in angels
Something good in everything I see
I believe in angels
When I know the time is right for me
I'll cross the stream - I have a dream.
-ABBA



A verse from the song "I have a dream", that Fr. Joseph had sang during this celebration was a testament that our beloved parish priest is truly a great dreamer and an action taker. The song he rendered to all speaks volume of his kindness and his beliefs.

A happy golden year to our beloved Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan.

Saturday Communities gathered to celebrate Fr. Joseph's 50th Natal day.

It was attended by his parents, Fr. Paul, Fr. Jerry and Sr. Vera.

Hosted by Divine Mercy choir with the support of Legion of Mary-Door of heaven and St. Joseph the Worker's Community, the simple luncheon party was filled with good wishes, videoke, dance offering and delicious food.

Best wishes, good health, more power and years to come to Fr. Joseph Tan. Truly may all your dreams come true.

Photo credit: Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD

Article: Brenda Galfo (SJTW)



深秋聖神修院遊　—文森



十月一日，天宇澄明，萬里無雲。我們一家人整裝出發，取道黃竹坑，緩步登山，往聖神修院而去。山徑蜿蜒，秋風送爽，草木含露。一家人且行且談，既享天倫之樂，亦懷朝聖之心。

行至修院，早有義工笑臉相迎，輕聲指點路徑。我們隨眾步入大操場，但見人頭攢動，旗幟飄揚，開幕儀式將啟。未幾，周守仁樞機親臨主禮，神色溫厚，舉止從容。致辭之間，言辭懇切，全場掌聲如潮，熱鬧非常，卻又不失莊嚴肅穆之氣，令人印象深刻。

禮成，我們先登二樓文物館。館中陳列，皆神父們昔日生活之點滴，一几一硯，一衣一牘，無聲見證數十年來奉獻之路。觀其筆記，字跡工整，可想見燈下伏案之勤；睹其日用，簡樸無華，更覺清修之志可敬。歷史如在眼前，令人低徊不已。

繼而移步一樓小禮堂。甫入門，眾人頓然安靜，喧囂盡退。各人各自斂容靜坐，或默禱，或沉思，心靈為之沉澱。在這方寸靜室之中，恍若與主相遇，塵慮盡消，靈性得以洗滌。

其後，我們來到大禮堂，此乃今日重頭戲所在。堂內寬敞宏偉，長椅整齊排列，彩窗透光，氣氛神聖。我們彷彿置身主日彌撒之中，感受信眾同心祈禱之虔誠。眾人紛紛拍照留念，欲將這份莊嚴與感動長存心底。

正瀏覽間，偶遇本堂堂區議會會長譚國雄先生與公教報記者相談正歡。承其親切招呼，閒談片刻，言及堂區近況與朝聖意義，受益良多。話未盡興，忽聞台上歌聲揚起——乃教區合唱團隊，以悠揚歌聲獻唱，音韻清越，繚繞全場。眾人側耳傾聽，心絃為之震動，參觀氣氛遂達頂點。曲終掌聲雷動，餘韻猶存。

之後，我們信步至修院戶外露天明陣。秋陽斜照，古木蒼然，我們緩步踱行明陣之中，一步一思，心神漸入澄明。遙望修院四周，山巒疊翠，雲淡風輕，胸懷為之開闊。今日參觀所見所聞，至此彷彿匯歸一處，成為豐盈之收穫。

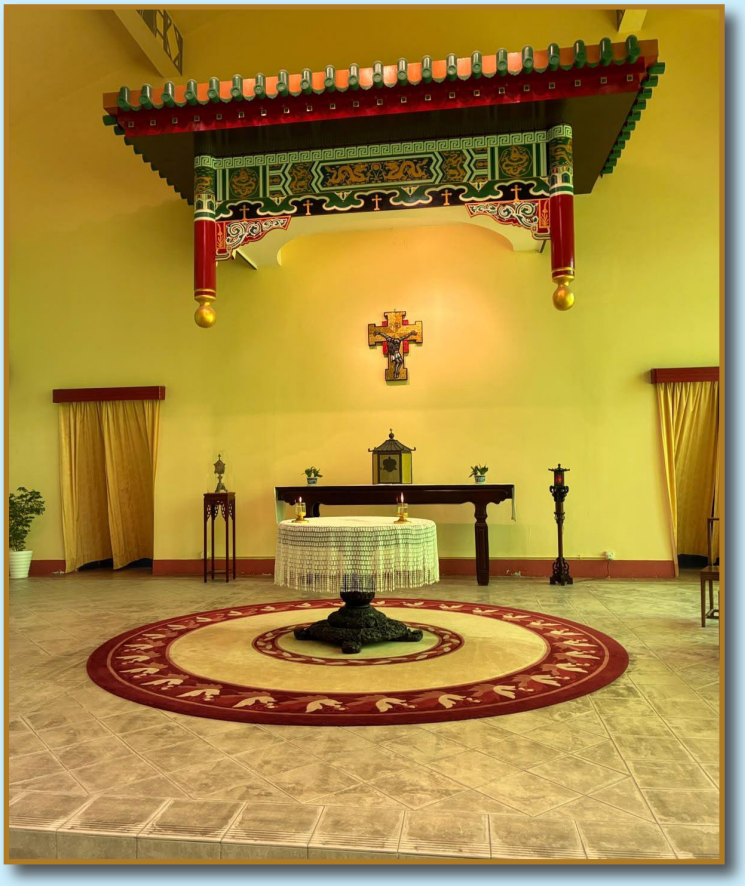
是日也，晨間雖發酷熱天氣警告，然暑氣蒸騰，反襯我們心情之澎湃。烈日之下，步履雖勞，心卻滿懷喜樂。下午我們仍將前往聖若瑟堂，參與導賞服務。一日行程，緊湊而充實，今日重遊修院，既識教會歷史之厚重，亦感信仰生活之鮮活。如此機緣，意義非凡，實堪珍惜。

願諸教友亦能把握良機，親臨聖若瑟堂朝聖，同沐主恩共證信仰之路。

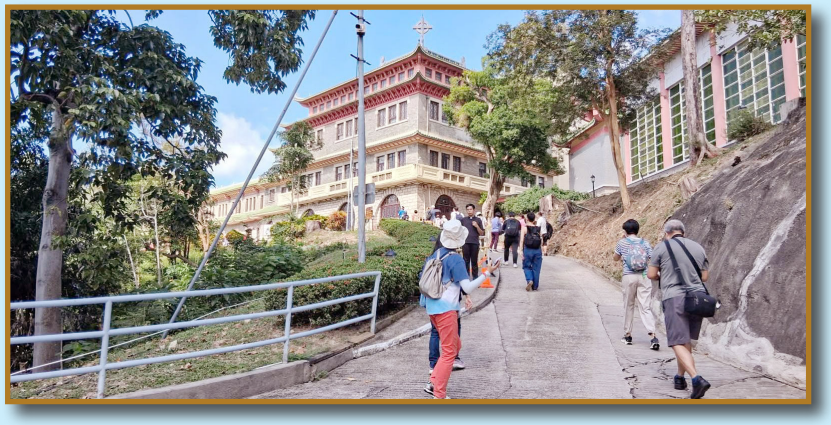









傳媒
MEDIA
往會場
Enter
Serra Club
Member
Peter Tam
工作人員
STAFF



Called to Holiness



In our everyday life, our intent and intentions can alter and change. Our reason for seeking God must be solely because we want to know Him and we long to be with Him. A changed life is the evidence of a renewed heart and mind. A transformed life is not one that longs for temporary wealth, but for a lasting abundance grace. A changed life surrenders in reverence and obedience to the Lord, no matter the circumstances we are facing we do not fear nor worry because there is one God who always with us. We are All Called to Holiness in our own little way by imitating our Lord Jesus Christ. Just like St. Nicholas de Tolentino and Saint Lorenzo Ruiz whom we commemorated in our home away from home St. Joseph's Church.



Saint Nicholas de Tolentino – Feast Day



Saint Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila – Feast Day with Rev. Midas Tambot

20th of September 2026 – Feast Day Celebration of Saint Nicholas de Tolentino also known as the "Patron of the Holy Souls". A man marked by miracles. His coming into the world marked by miracle, this great Augustinian wonder worker became the advocate of the Church suffering, he was like a brilliant star illuminating the Church Militant so as to finally shine in glory in the Church triumphant. A simple example of a dedicated servants who bring us to the knowledge of faith to make sure we are on the right path

27th of September 2026 – Feast Day Celebration of St. Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila and his Companion Martyrs, we reminded of the transformative power of faith and service. St. Lorenzo dedicated himself to the Church and stands as a compelling symbol of unwavering faith and selfless service. A Chinese – Filipino, he became country's protomartyr after his execution in Japan. In his final moments during his persecution, he famously declared, "I am a Catholic and happy to die for God, if I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them to God". Let us draw inspiration from his life and seek his intercession to help us embrace suffering and sacrifice on our journey to serve others and honor God.

October 1, 2026 – Spiritual talk with Bro Vic Cabral



Article written by:

Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)

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:



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

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

Jesus said, "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

聖經金句

耶穌說:「你們應當是成全的, 如同你們的天父是成全的一樣。」(瑪5:48)



In Loving Memory

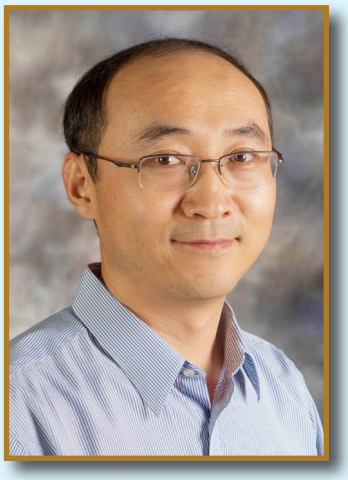
Funeral / Memorial Mass:

2026-10-05	Humphrey Heung
2026-10-09	William Cham
2026-10-23	Chan Sze Kit
2026-10-27	Chiu Wing Lun Vernon

神師訓語

蒙召成聖

陳中學神父





當我們進入十一月，教會邀請我們記念所有先我們而去的亡者。這個月以隆重的諸聖節開始，這一天提醒我們最終的歸宿。但它也向我們提出一個深刻的挑戰：成聖的召叫。

很多時候，當我們聽到“成聖”這個詞，可能會以為那是保留給聖人、神父、修女和偉大神學家的事。其實，成聖並不是一個難以實現的理想；它是我們每一個人的聖召。我們眾人都蒙召成聖。

聖人最大的秘訣，在於他們並非一直做非凡的事而成聖。他們是藉著以非凡的愛去做平凡的事而成聖的。加爾各答的聖德蕾莎修女曾說：“成聖不是少數人的奢侈品，而是你和我單純的責任。” 她在加爾各答的貧民窟中找到了成聖的方法，她也堅持去做。所以，你可以在自己的家中找到它。成聖就在你生活的日常職責中。

為父母而言：成聖就在你們照顧孩子的不眠之夜裡，在耐心回答孩子重複同一個問題所需的耐心中，也在把孩子的需要置於自己之前的犧牲中。為工作者而言：成聖就在無人注視時所表現的誠信中，在你投入工作的勤勉中，也在你對難以相處的同事所施予的愛德中。為學生而言：成聖就在自律的讀書中，也在世俗環境裡為信仰挺身而出的勇氣中。為退休者而言：成聖就在為世界獻上的祈禱中，也在與年輕一代分享的智慧中。

成聖意味著與基督結合。而基督就在每個當下時刻。如果我們想成聖，就必須停止等待“完美的時機”才開始。我們必須從今天開始、從現在開始。我們必須聖化我們的日常生活。

我們可以用一個簡單的奉獻開始每一天：“主，我把這一天奉獻給祢。求祢幫助我像祢一樣去愛。” 我們也把我們的十字架交托給天主。我們每個人的生活中都有十字架，例如麻煩、疾病、人際關係等等。我們要把它們奉獻給天主。我們的痛苦若與基督結合，就成為恩寵的泉源。

這個月我們為所愛亡者的祈禱提醒我們：我們不是獨自走這條成聖之路。天上的聖人們在鼓勵我們，為我們加油。他們已經證明這樣的成聖是可能的。他們和我們一樣都是人，有脾氣、有恐懼、有軟弱，但他們讓天主的恩寵轉變了他們。

讓我們努力追求同樣的轉變。讓我們不要滿足於平庸的基督徒生活。而要在我們的日常生活中活出我們所蒙召而追求的聖德。