

## **EDITORIAL**

any seek love and affirmation in worldly ways either through power, wealth, relationships, position and more, forgoing their personal values and knowledge of right and wrong.

Many are, either by choice or without realizing it, in various stages of situationships, stagnant and directionless, merely leveraging benefits off each, due to fears of expectations, commitment and sacrifice in real and evolving relationships.

Many follow the crowd to fill the dark and empty holes in their hearts through friendships, alcohol, sex, games, TikTok, drama series, travels, shopping, and an endless list of apparently good things, yet without Christ, become meaningless.

The pull of the world may even monopolize our lives. Compare how much time we devote to worldly and digital pursuits to the time we spend together, really together, just focusing, listening and valuing Jesus, others and ourselves?

Do we follow and apply His Word? Do we live for Him, for others and for ourselves? Or do we just exist day to day, one distraction to the next?

How do we live in the world, and yet not of the world? This is the basis of the Lord's resounding question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am? What am I to you?"

This August, we are called like young Mary, to "arise and make haste". Let us reenergize our hearts free from fears that stop us from going to God, as the Holy Father exhorted at the World Youth Day Lisbon 2023. Let us redirect our hearts to heaven, that we too may receive a share of Mary's reward in Assumption. Let us reopen our hearts to the Spirit, calling us to serve as Confirmed warriors of faith and respond to our true vocations, like our beloved priests Rev Fr Robert and Rev Fr Paul celebrating their sacerdotal anniversaries recently.

By putting our hearts right, may one day the Father will also shine his light of peace and joy on us and proclaim us as His beloved children. But wait, He already did and is still doing so, at every Sacrament. Could it be the next move is ours?

> Emilian H Social Communications Editor Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria hope.bnvicariate@gmail.com





# Quotes to Youth by the Holy Father

Dear friends, God calls you by name, it means that for God none of us is a number, but a face and a heart."

"In the Church there is room for everyone.
'Father, but I am a wretch, is there room for me?'
There is room for everyone! All together now, everyone, repeat with me in your own language: Everyone, everyone, everyone."

"Whenever we feel discouraged, we can feel tempted to leave the boat and become entangled in the nets of resignation and pessimism...This is not the time to stop and give up, to drag the boat to shore, or to look back...Now is the God-given time of grace to sail boldly into the sea of evangelization and of mission."

"Yet, I would like to tell you that we do not radiate light by putting ourselves in the spotlight, for that type of light is blinding. No, we cannot illumine others by projecting a perfect, well-ordered. No, we radiate light – we shine – by welcoming Jesus into our hearts and learning to love as he does."

"Those who love do not stand idly by, but serve others. Those who love hasten to serve, hasten to dedicate themselves to the service of others."

"That is the only time, the only time that we are allowed to look down upon others: when we are offering to help them up."

"Joy is missionary. Joy is not just for oneself; it's for sharing something with others."

"Dear friends, we need a burst of light if we are to face the darkness of the night, the challenges of life, the fears that plague us, and the gloom that often overtakes us. That light, the Gospel tells us, has a name. Yes, the light that has come to illumine the world is Jesus himself (cf. Jn 1:9). He is the sun that never sets, but continues to shine even amid the darkness of the night."

"Mary's joy is twofold: she had just received the angel's message that she would welcome the Redeemer of the world, and she was also given the news that her cousin was pregnant. This is interesting: instead of thinking about herself, she thinks of the other. Why? Because joy is missionary, joy is not just for one person, it is for sharing something with others.

"In the church, there is space for everyone, and when there isn't, please, let's work so that there is -also for who makes mistakes, for who falls, for who it is difficult."

Departing from his prepared speech, he asked all the young people to "repeat with me: 'Everyone, everyone, everyone!'" before waves of "todos, todos, todos" -- "everyone" in Spanish and Portuguese -- spread throughout the crowd.

"That is the church," he said, "the mother of all; there is room for all."

"I invite you think -- this is so beautiful -- that God loves us as we are, not how we would like to be or how society wants us to be, as we are. He loves us with the limits we have, with the defects we have, and with the desire we have to keep moving forward in life!

"God loves us like that; believe it, because God is the Father."

"I leave you with these thoughts.

Carry on; if you fall, get back up;
walk with a goal in mind, and train
each day of your lives. Nothing is
free in life, everything has to be
paid for. Only one thing is free: the
love of Jesus! So, with this free gift
that we have – the love of Jesus –
and with the desire to carry on the
journey, let us walk in hope, let us
be mindful of our roots, and move
forwards, without fear. Do not be
afraid."

"What is more, I tell you something very beautiful: It is no longer me, it is Jesus Himself who is looking at you, at this moment. He is looking at us. He knows you, He knows the heart of each one of you, He knows the life of each one of you. He knows your joys, He knows your sorrows, your successes, and your failures. He knows your hearts, and He says to you today, here, in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day, 'Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Take heart, do not be afraid."



"Love is risky. We must take the risk of loving. Yet, though it is a risk, it is a risk worth taking, and Jesus accompanies us as we do. He always accompanies us, always walks with us. Throughout our lives, he is always by our side." "Have courage, go forward knowing that we are loved... repeat after me, ... God loves us." "Have the courage, then, to replace your doubts with dreams. Replace your doubts with dreams: do not remain hostage to your fears, but set about working to realize your goals!"





Feast of the Assumption at COLA **13 August** 

## Fr Paul's 24th Sacerdotal Anniversary

16 August





## Prayer for Priests by Pope Benedict XVI

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest, you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.

ministerial priesthood
may be ever more conformed to you,
the Divine Master.
May they preach the Gospel with
pure heart and clear conscience.
Let them be shepherds according to
your own heart,
single-minded in service to you and to
the Church,
and shining examples of a holy,
simple, and joyful life.

Grant that all who are ordained to the

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours, draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



Fr Robert's 20th Sacerdotal Anniversary Lunch
13 August

Thursday was Fr. Robert Leong Soon Choi's 20th Sacerdotal Anniversary. On 13.8.2023 Sunday was Fr. Robert's lunch celebration at Pusat Insani in Seria with about 450 attendees. There were two bands, one adults' and another was COOL's Iban youth band, besides performances by both youth and little children. Gifts from COOL, COLA and SJC representatives were presented to Fr. Robert.

All had a happy and enjoyable time celebrating such a milestone in Fr. Robert's priestly life. Many happy returns!

- Adeline Ong

星期四是梁順才神父出任晉鐸二十週年紀念日。

2023 年 8 月 13 日星期日是梁順才神父在詩里亞 Pusat Insani舉辦的午餐慶祝活動,約有 450 名嘉賓!

有兩個樂隊,一個是成人樂隊, 另一個是COOL的伊班青年樂隊!

成人、青少年和小孩都有演講、唱歌、舞蹈。

COLA 和 SJC 向神父贈送了禮物作為他們愛的奉獻。

大家與眾神父都快樂而愉快的為 梁順才神父慶祝這一重要晉鐸二十 週年的里程。 祝福梁神父有更美好 的將來!

## **HEARTS OF FAITH**

n conjunction with the feast day of Saint Anne, a group of 28 parishioners from Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Seria, Brunei Darussalam visited Minor Basilica of Saint Anne, Bukit Mertajam Penang from 28th – 30th July 2023. Pilgrims from all around the world including foreigners, thronged the grounds of Saint Anne for this annual event.

During the visit to the Minor Basilica, our group performed the Stations of the Cross around the church compound, visited the chapel and spent some personal time before the Blessed Sacrament, offered candles, flowers and prayers at the old church (known as Shrine of Saint Anne), and joined the evening Mass.

The highlight of the festival was a long candlelight procession of beautifully decorated floats bearing the statues of St Anne and her daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Despite the heat and crowd, our participants joined the procession while holding their candles.

Some of the participants felt the presence of our Lord and Mother Mary during their visit. One participant had her prayer answered after her visit to Saint Anne.

The trip to Minor Basilica of Saint Anne brought back a memorable experience to all the participants.











Journey to St Anne's **28-30 July** 

Gotong Royong
30 July



Vicariate Confirmation Retreat **20-24 August** 

