

# THE CARPENTER 木匠



MCI (P) 112/06/2015



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Foreword by: Fr Edmund Chong, Parish Priest.

## Builder of the Family

*"If the Lord does not build the house,  
in vain do its builders labour."  
– Psalm 127:1*

Noah was asked to build an ark. The people of ancient time built the Tower of Babylon; and King Solomon was given to build a Temple for God. All of us too, are called to build on something - our many dreams of all things lovely, ideal and perfect.

In the bigger plan of God for humanity, St. Joseph was tasked to build not just to house personality, but also to house an indwelling presence of the God made man. Shortly after Jesus was born, the family of three fled into Egypt. While there, they were constantly on the run as Herod sent his forces out to hunt them down relentlessly.

A decade ago, I had the happy privilege of taking a group on a pilgrimage to Egypt. There we came face to face with the

marked out routes of the Holy Family's escapade. In a vision given to a Bishop of that locality sometime in the 4th Century, the path and the places they took refuge in, were noted down and these had become religious sites with churches built on them. Embarking on the foot trails, we prayed for the graces to enter into each of their spiritual journey.

The Holy Family's journey was fraught with lots of uncertainties, hunger, thirst and fatigue. There were occasions of surprised bounce of a near catch situation just within metres, dangerous stares by secret society, and even the little that they had, was stolen and thankfully, was given back to them. The family man, St. Joseph, had to make do with open space living for a day or two since they could not remain in a place for long. While on the lookout and on the run, the experience of living under one roof was unheard of. As Palestinian folks, they were easily spotted on among the Egyptians whose customs and cultures were foreign though not alienated altogether.

In retrospect, the family unit preceded the housing unit. God, using these events pre-ordained that such would be the given norms of the Holy Family model. The carpenter he had been would have to learn how to build first the family in order to better build the house. Providentially, it pointed thus this way for the Holy Family in both its vision and mission.



Called to be the architect of God's only blue print of building proper family unit, the wise man Joseph's given exodus in Egypt helped forge a family character the way God desired. Where the family grows and nurtures best in a deepening process of the ups and downs of its struggle, it shapes the family ethos and strengthens further the bond that is good and godly. The tribulations the Holy Family went through in their sojourn in Egypt engendered the potential of which the good in the family calls much to be desired and safeguarded.



The RCIA (English) Rite of Acceptance (pictured above left to right) was held on Sunday, 13 September during the 11am Mass.





Article contributed by: Joan Pillay, a facilitator of the workshop.

## Theology of the Body

### What is Theology of the Body

The Theology of the Body is based on a series of 129 general audience addresses given by John Paul II when he was Pope between September 1979 and November 1984. In these series of talks, he provides a reflection on the human person through an analysis of biblical passages covering topics on sex and sexuality, creation, redemption, eternal life, marriage, celibacy and Christian morality. This short summary will focus largely on John Paul II's approach to sex and sexuality.



Above: A Theology of the Body session held @ SJC.



Left: Keynotes emphasised during a session and participants listening attentively to one of the lecturers (right).



### Why a Theology of the Body

The Holy Father posits that the human body possesses a "language" which allows it to make visible the eternal plan and mystery of God. "The body, in fact, and it alone, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and divine. It was created to transfer in the visible reality of the world the invisible mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus be a sign of it." What this means is that man images God in the unifying complementarity of male and female. As John Paul II explains, God is in Himself a life-giving communion of persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the one flesh union, man images God through the life-giving communion of persons. A "communion of persons" occurs when two people freely give themselves to each other and accept one another in love. The marital embrace or conjugal union is thus an icon of the inner life of the Trinity - the eternal exchange of love between the Father and the Son and manifested through the Spirit.

The body has a spousal meaning as the Second Vatican Council has stated that "man can only find himself by making a sincere gift of himself" (Gaudium et spes 24). Spousal love indicates a total self-giving, a total self-donation. "The concept of giving implies the one who gives and the one who receives the gift as well as the relation established between them." (TOB 13:4). As love is a sincere gift of self, in a sense, the person is realised through love.

The physical union between a man and his wife points to and expresses a deeper spiritual union. In the same way that a smile is empty if one is not really happy, sexual union is empty without spiritual union. The physical communion between a man and a woman not only points to an invisible communion between them but actually shows us that this love, this self-gift, is what we are called to, what we are created for.

Even more surprisingly, John Paul II points out that conjugal union is also a sign of God's desire for complete union with us (which is intimate but not sexual). The union between husband and wife is therefore a sign of Christ's love for His bride, the Church. Thus couples in living their relationship as they were intended, image to the world God's eternal plan for mankind.

To a world now immersed in a false glorification of the body and sex, John Paul II offers us the glory of the truth, the truth that sets us free. And the truth is: God created us as male and female to be a sign in the world of His own eternal mystery and to reveal to us that we are destined for eternal glory in communion with Himself. What dignity God has bestowed on our sexuality!

[Adapted from commentaries by Christopher West on John Paul II's Theology of the Body.]

### The spousal meaning of the body

We cannot understand human existence if we do not understand the reality of "gift". God initiates the gift and creates man to receive the gift, which is God's divine life and love. Man is created as a person first to receive the gift of God's gratuitous love and then to recapitulate that love by being gift to others.

Man and woman are persons made for each other and this is revealed in the body - the complementary differences of their bodies. The pope calls this the spousal meaning of the body which is "the body's capacity to express love: that love precisely in which the person becomes a gift and - by means of this gift - fulfils the very meaning of his being and existence." For it is the body that reveals (makes visible) the call to self-giving love. It is the body that reveals the mystery of "gift".



Top: A young parishioner doing her bit for a noble cause.

## Blood Donation Drive

In collaboration with the Singapore Red Cross, a Blood Donation Drive will be held at the Parish Community Hall on Sunday 18 October from 9am to 1.30pm. Walk-in registration is available for parishioners who may wish to do their bid to save lives.

The previous Blood Donation Drive was held on Sunday 21 June.



Top: During the blood donation process.



Right: Smiling parishioners posing after completing the donation process.



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Article contributed by: Bernard Lim.

## Significance of Being Called to Serve as a Member of the EMHC

Holy Communion or the host of the Body and Blood of Jesus is so sacred that only the Bishop, the Priest and the Deacon, who are by reason of their sacred Ordination, be the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion. "Ordinary" refers to the the norm or what is allowed. The most common situation when Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are required are when the number of faithful coming to receive Communion is so great that the celebration of Mass would be unduly prolonged.



Top: EMHC member distributing Holy Communion to the congregation.

If there is a sufficient number of "Ordinary Ministers", EMHC should not to be used. (cf. Redemptionis Sacramentum 154, 157, 158). Therefore, "Extraordinary" refers to the situation not the person.... but what a privilege when the occasion arises.

The Mass is the source and summit of our Catholic life and the Holy Communion is the climax of the celebration. A distinct feature of our Holy Mass is the use of signs and symbols which help us to perceive what we cannot see. As a member of the EMHC, I am given a special privilege to participate more actively in the Mass.

Privilege not in the sense of doing but through the signs to participate more consciously and thus avail ourselves more fruitfully to the graces offered in this awesome mystery of Christ in the Eucharist and God's covenantal love for His people.

**Editor's Note:** The contributor of this article is one of the new members being called upon this year to serve in the EMHC Ministry.



Top left & Right: EMHC members renewing their pledge during the 5.30pm Evening Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday 7 June.



Top: EMHC members Peter and Suzanna preparing vessels before Mass.



New EMHC members (top) along with other EMHC members (below).



Top: EMHC members Irene and Lorna.



EMHC members with their respective families enjoying a barbeque dinner cum fellowship (pictured above and below).







Our Altar Servers taking a break (top) and the "Daddy's Team" that finished third in the competition (below).



## Archbishop Cup 2015

The Archbishop Cup football tournament was held during the June school holidays. Our Altar Servers took part in the annual tournament along with an "Altar Servers Daddy's Team." The "Daddy's Team" did SJC proud by finishing third in the tournament.



Top: Our Altar Servers with their daddies posing with the Archbishop.



Top: Participants listening attentively to the instructor (back to camera).



## CPR & AED Training

In collaboration with the National Resuscitation Council Singapore, several members from the Hospitality Ministry (Wardens) as well as from other ministries attended a training programme for providers of first aid.

Its objective is to familiarize key ministry members serving at weekend Masses with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the handling and use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) prior to its planned installation.

Applying the "Kiss of Life" while an instructor looks on (pictured below).



Top: Fr Chris (kneeling on right) applies first aid whilst Caretaker Anthony (left foreground) prepares the AED as other participants look on.



Top & Below: Participants familiarizing themselves with the AED.



Below: A participant giving the "Kiss of Life" enthusiastically.







Top: **The Children's First Holy Communion** was held on the Feast of *Corpus Christi* on Sunday, 7 June at the 11am Mass.



Top: **The Teen Confirmation** was held on Sunday 14 June at the 11am Mass with Archbishop William Goh as main celebrant.

## Annual Appreciation Dinner



The annual Appreciation Dinner was held on Saturday 30 May after the Sunset Mass at the Parish Community Hall (pictured above and below).

Members from all parish ministries and stallholders of the SJC Food & Funfair were invited to the dinner.



## NCC Community Night & Fr Chris's 10th Anniversary Sacerdotal Ordination

The Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC) organized a Family & Community Night on Saturday 15 August at the Parish Canteen after the Sunset Mass.

Fr Christopher Lee celebrated his 10th Anniversary Sacerdotal Ordination with parishioners at the event.



*Buffet dinner (top left) and musical entertainment by our parishioner band (top right).*

*A cake was presented to Fr Chris during the celebration.*







## 33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat

We congratulate those who have completed the 33 Days Retreat to Morning Glory. They celebrated their consecration to Jesus through Mary on Saturday 19 September after the Sunset Mass followed by a Buffet cum fellowship at the Parish Canteen.

*Below: Fr Chris presiding the Consecration.*



*A Prayer Certificate given to participants who had completed the Retreat and wish to be Consecrated (top) and posing in front of the statue of the Blessed Virgin after the Consecration (below).*



*Top left to Right: Participants receiving their Certificates and Miraculous Medals from Fr Chris.*

*Right: Group photo of the participants of the Retreat.*

*Below left & Right: Buffet reception for participants and their family members.*



## Eucharistic Adoration for Children



The Eucharistic Adoration for children from the Primary Catechism classes was held in church on Saturday 3 October from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.



*Top: The "Catechist Band" and The Little Praisers' Choir (below).*



*Children and parents at the Eucharistic Adoration (top and below).*







## Down Memory Lane

### The Pillars of SJC



Top: Photo of Upper Bukit Timah Road taken in the mid 1990s. Notice the position of the pillars on the right. Photo extracted from the SJC 150 Anniversary Magazine.

The pillars on either side of the driveway entrance to the church were temporarily removed on 28 August to facilitate the widening of Upper Bukit Timah Road by the Land Transport Authority (LTA).

The oldest remaining structure in SJC and a familiar sight whilst travelling along Upper Bukit Timah Road will be restored upon completion of the road works.



The pillars were secured properly prior to removal from its original site (right).



The pillars were chain-lifted by crane onto the back of a lorry (top & below)



The pillars are placed at the field overlooking Boys' Town, until its eventual restoration (below).



1) 10月4日率领慕道班一日游:1. 参观即将搬迁的圣芳济沙勿略大修院。



2) 这道门……给多少人带来了救恩和希望。但主曾许诺过关了这道门，必开另一扇窗。我们有信心这道门给我们的修生们，神父们带多少的回憶！给多少人的救恩，希望！但天主答应过我们，祂关这道，也不忘为我们开了另一扇门，我们非常期待大修院关闭后，新的院址很快落成，让羊群同聚一堂，共宿一栈。



3) 参观圣德肋撒教堂，适逢主保日。



4) 参观圣十字架堂，蒙张思谦神父亲自出迎，并由负责人介绍讲述，赠送小十字架作纪念。







海星报隆重庆祝60周年钻庆，

4月18日吴诚才总主教于圣伯纳德堂主祭华语弥撒庆典并一同在万兴楼共享午宴。

圣若瑟读经班有幸与 吴总主教，董立神父，萧永伦神父，张思谦神父，王养毅神父，张利勇神父 合影

全国新教友学习天:彼此认识，彼此切磋我们圣若瑟新教友也没落他人参与。

慕道班开课了，建设团体：本堂锺伟良神父出席迎新会为我们打气！所谓祂是地上的盐，世上的光。感恩

指讲课 - 讲课的道师与问道者互相交流互动

